

Country Life—December 30, 1954

ENGLAND'S SMALLEST PARISH? By GEOFFREY GRIGSON

COUNTRY LIFE

On Sale Thursday

DECEMBER 30, 1954

TWO SHILLINGS



FISHING HAMLET: CROVIE, BANFFSHIRE

Noel Habgood

classified properties

FOR SALE

IRELAND. BATTERSBY & CO., Estate Agents (Est. 1815), F.A.I., Westmoreland Street, Dublin. Sporting properties and Residential Farm available for sale or letting.

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S. DEVON. In a lovely country village S., between Torquay and Newton Abbot. Detached residence, stone built with leaded-light windows and beamed ceilings. Hall with cloakroom off. Lounge 21 ft. x 13 ft. 6 in., with large brick fireplace. Dining room, 4 bedrooms (2 b. and c.) and well fitted bathroom. Kitchen with Rayburn. Main services. Approx. 1 acre including orchard. Garage. £4,750 (open to offers). WAYCOTT'S, 5, Fleet Street, Torquay (Tel. 4333).

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WE SHALL BE PLEASED to forward on request a selection of farms, smallholdings and residential estates for sale in the Southern Counties and the Midlands. E. J. BROOKS & SON, F.A.I., Gloucester House, Beaumont Street, Oxford (Tel. 4535).

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A SMALL TUTORIAL establishment for boys taking common entrance examination.—BONHAMS, Yanton, Sussex. Tel. 256.

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St. Godric's is a day and residential College of 250 students, of whom a quarter come from abroad, which gives English girls opportunities to make friends overseas and travel.

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WANTED

TADWORTH - WALTON HEATH - WALTON-ON-THE-HILL. London professional gentleman disposing of larger property wishes to purchase a small luxury property, preferably facing South, with about 3 bedrooms, usual offices. Rooms must be large and well appointed or readily capable of adapting. 1/2 acre. Early possession not important. Price according to the property. Alternatively will buy good building plot. Details to SISKIN & ROBERTS, Chartered Surveyors, Auctioneers, 28, Bell Street, Reigate (Tel. 4747), Redhill (Tel. 3555) and Horley (Tel. 77).

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Furnished

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ESTATE AGENTS,
AUCTIONEERS, SURVEYORS
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COUNTRY LIFE

Vol. CXVI No. 3024

DECEMBER 30, 1954

KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY

HANTS—BERKS BORDERS—READING 9½ MILES LONGWATER FARM, EVERSLY CROSS

A charming modernised 16th-century Residence with tiled roof and oak timbers and floors.



3 reception rooms, 5 principal bedrooms,
2 dressing rooms, 2 staff bedrooms,
2 bathrooms. Staff sitting room.
Central heating throughout. Main
electric light, power, gas and water.
Modern drainage.

Well-kept gardens with timbered lawns,
kitchen garden and orchard.
Hard tennis court.

Large Garage. Barn. Dairy. Outhouse.
BUNGALOW COTTAGE of 5 rooms
and bathroom.

Small T.T. and Attested Farm
with Cowhouse for 7.

ABOUT 26 ACRES



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CHARMING OLD HOUSE OF
CHARACTER DATING FROM
1630 with later additions, built
of brick with Bargate stone
and having tiled roof.

The whole in good decorative order.
2-3 reception rooms, 6 bed and
dressing rooms (4 with basins
h. and c.), 2 bathrooms.

Staff annexe with bathroom.

Automatic central heating, gas,
main electric light and water.

Garage for 4.



Magnificent music or play room
3 COTTAGES

Charming garden including lawns,
hard tennis court, kitchen garden,
paddocks.

IN ALL 10 ACRES

For Sale Freehold or would be
sold with less land and without
the cottages.

Personally inspected and recom-
mended by the Sole Agents: Messrs.
KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY.
(41333K.M.)

CHALFONT ST. GILES, BUCKS

SITUATED IN THE CENTRE OF THE PICTURESQUE VILLAGE OVERLOOKING THE GREEN
Excellent bus services and Green Line Coach service to London (24 miles).

"SANDFORDS"

A CHARMING QUEEN ANNE
HOUSE built of red brick with
a mellowed tiled roof.

3 reception rooms, 4 principal and
2 other bedrooms, dressing room,
bathroom. Main electric light,
power, gas and water. Garage.

Stable and man's room over,
suitable for conversion to cottage.



ATTRACTIVE MAINLY
WALLED GARDEN

Matured lawn, kitchen garden.
ABOUT ½ ACRE. FREEHOLD

For Sale by Auction
at an early date
(unless previously sold)

Solicitors:
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STONE, 2, Wardrobe Place,
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Auctioneers: Messrs. KNIGHT,
FRANK & RUTLEY

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Delightful unspoilt country. London under 1 hour.
A CHARMING CHARACTER HOUSE built of brick, with
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considerable recent
expenditure and is
exceptionally well
equipped.

Lounge hall, 3 reception rooms, 5 best bed and
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Complete central heating.
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Large outside Games or Dance Room; garages for 3; excellent modern
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MAYfair 3771
(15 lines)

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8 MILES NORTH-WEST OF WOLVERHAMPTON
The house is erected in the Cotswold Manor House style of brick
and stands 400 feet up facing south with extensive views.

Hall, long gallery, 4 re-
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cipal and 4 staff bed-
rooms, 3 bathrooms.
Badminton and squash
court. Main electricity
and water. Central
heating. Garages and
stabling.

The superb grounds
are featured by the
Royal Horticultural
Society and are laid
out with great taste.

Tennis courts, alpine garden, kitchen garden, pasture and parkland.
The lodge contains 6 rooms and bathroom.

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JACKSON-STOPS & STAFF

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MAYFAIR 3316/7

WEST SUSSEX

In the favoured downland village of Compton.
Chichester 10 miles. Portsmouth 15 miles.

AN ATTRACTIVE "L" SHAPED RESIDENCE



PRICE £6,000

A well matured garden of a little over 1/2-acre.

Full particulars from the Agents, JACKSON-STOPS & STAFF,
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Containing:
Hall with cloaks,
3 reception rooms,
4 bedrooms and 2 secondary,
bathroom and w.c.,
kitchen with Aga.

Main water and electricity.
Partial central heating.

Garage and outbuildings.

By Direction of Captain J. W. D. Evans,

SOUTH SHROPSHIRE

This charming William and Mary Period Residence

"STOKE," GREETE, NEAR LUDLOW (6 miles)

In a beautiful unspoilt country district surrounded by own farm lands.

Lounge hall, dining room, drawing room, small study and sitting room, 7 bedrooms, 2 maids' bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, games room, usual domestic offices including light kitchen with Aga and maids' sitting room. Main electric light and power. Central heating. Own spring water supply. Most of the entertaining rooms have the original old oak paneling, open fireplaces and dog grates, wide old oak staircase and original oak floors.

Lovely garden with sun loggia, tennis lawn and productive kitchen garden. 3 Service Cottages. Garage, stabling and outbuildings, parklike land, in all 33 ACRES.

2 miles of trout fishing included. Excellent shooting in the district.

With Vacant Possession. Freehold for Sale by Private Treaty.

Adjoining Farm of 45 acres available if required.
To view, apply to the Owner's Agents: JACKSON-STOPS & STAFF,
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Paddington 2½ hours. Marlborough 10 miles.

DELIGHTFUL OLD FARMHOUSE FACING FULL SOUTH

Extensive views to the Downs.

Lounge hall, 3 reception rooms, 2 bathrooms, 5 bedrooms, kitchen with Aga.

Central heating. Main electricity.

Garage for 2 cars. Stabling. Ancient brick and timbered granary.



Most attractive gardens. Paddock.

Cottage available in village.

3½ ACRES

VACANT POSSESSION

FREEHOLD £7,500

Apply: JACKSON-STOPS, Cirencester
(Tel. 334-5).

Suitable for conversion

AMPHLETT HOUSE CHEDWORTH, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Cirencester 7 miles. Cheltenham 11 miles.



With or without 2½ ACRES

Auction, JANUARY 21 (unless sold).

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Genuine old Cotswold stone-built house
3-4 bedrooms,
11 3-4 downstairs rooms,
bathroom.

Main electric light connected.

Electrically pumped well water.

Messrs. JACKSON-STOPS of Cirencester
insert below an especial advertisement (which will appear weekly)
representing what they regard as the best bargain available
from their very COMPREHENSIVE REGISTERS, covering the
COTSWOLDS and the WEST OF ENGLAND generally

£2,500 WYE VALLEY

13 good rooms,
3 bathrooms,
kitchen with Aga.

Main electricity.

Partial central heating.

Garage for 2 cars.

Stabling. Cottage.

Garden, orchard and
paddock. 8 ACRES

Joint Agents: RUSSELL, BALDWIN & BRIGHT, LTD., Leominster
(Tel. 211-2); JACKSON-STOPS, Cirencester (Tel. 334-5).

(Continued on page 2295)



Tel. GROsvenor 3121
(3 lines)

WINKWORTH & CO.

48, CURZON STREET,
LONDON, W.1

UNDER ONE HOUR SOUTH OF LONDON

OCCUPYING A CHOICE SITUATION HIGH ABOVE SEA LEVEL IN A RURAL AREA, LARGELY PROTECTED BY NATIONAL TRUST LAND.
MAIN LINE STATION 5 MILES (EXCELLENT TRAIN SERVICE TO LONDON).

A WELL EQUIPPED COUNTRY HOUSE OF GEORGIAN ELEVATION



Built of brick with a tiled roof and including up-to-date labour-saving requirements.

PRINCIPAL BEDROOM SUITE WITH PRIVATE BATHROOM,
5 MORE BEDROOMS AND
2 MORE BATHROOMS,
4 RECEPTION ROOMS
AND LOGGIA,
STAFF FLAT OF 4 ROOMS
AND FOURTH BATHROOM.

OAK FLOORS AND
FITTED BASINS IN
BEST BEDROOMS.
AUTOMATIC OIL-FIRED
CENTRAL HEATING AND
HOT WATER SYSTEMS.
MAIN WATER AND
ELECTRICITY.
MODERN DRAINAGE.

INEXPENSIVELY MAINTAINED GROUNDS
WITH SOUTH TERRACES
AND SWIMMING POOL.

DOUBLE GARAGE WITH COTTAGE. HOME FARM WITH PEDIGREE DAIRY BUILDINGS AND 2 FARM COTTAGES, SMALLER FARMERY AND WOODLANDS.

FREEHOLD FOR SALE WITH 30 or 250 ACRES

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KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY

SOMERSET. Amidst Beautiful Country



Within easy reach of Wellington and Taunton.

A DELIGHTFUL HOUSE OF GEORGIAN CHARACTER

400 ft. up, and having good views.

Very fine entrance-hall, 3 reception rooms, 10 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Partial central heating. Main electricity. Good water supply. Garage.

BUILDING SUITABLE FOR CONVERSION TO COTTAGE.

Piggery. Attractive garden. Enclosure of pasture.

IN ALL 18½ ACRES

PRICE FREEHOLD £6,500
OR WITH 2 ACRES £6,000

Agents: Messrs. KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY. (3679.KM)

MAYfair 3771
(15 lines)

20, HANOVER SQUARE, LONDON, W.1

NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK BORDERS

3 miles from coast and nearest town.

A CHARMING GEORGIAN RESIDENCE

Standing in well-wooded grounds with delightful views over private lake of 17 acres.

3 reception rooms, 6 principal bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, offices. Extensive garage accommodation, and stabling.

Main electricity. Enclosure of pasture. TO BE LET AT A MODERATE RENTAL. Sporting rights over about 400 acres including wildfowl.

Joint Sole Agents: Messrs. CARTER JONES & SONS, S. Suffolk Street, S.W.1 (Tel.: WHitehall 8527), and Messrs. KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY. (52300.CF)



Telegrams:
"Galleries, Wesdo, London"

4, ALBANY COURT YARD,
PICCADILLY, W.1
REGENT 1184 (3 lines)

NICHOLAS

(ESTABLISHED 1882)

1, STATION ROAD,
READING
READING 54055 (3 lines)

HAMPSHIRE

Between Romsey and Winchester.

THIS ATTRACTIVE MODERN HOUSE



FREEHOLD £6,500

Further details apply Messrs. NICHOLAS (London Office).

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

In the lovely Hambleden valley.

A REALLY CHARMING HOUSE



FOR SALE FREEHOLD

Apply Messrs. NICHOLAS (London Office).

in one of England's most beautiful villages.

4 bedrooms with b. and c. basins, 3 reception rooms, modern bathroom and kitchen.

ALL IN FAULTLESS ORDER.

Cottage annexe with 2 bedrooms, sitting room, bathroom and kitchen.

DOUBLE GARAGE.

Small attractive garden of about ½ ACRE.

with high ceilings and light, well-proportioned rooms.

4 PRINCIPAL AND 2 SECONDARY BEDROOMS, 3 RECEPTION ROOMS, MODERN BATHROOM AND KITCHEN.

Main services.

Double garage and small garden.

FREEHOLD £6,000

Further details apply Messrs. NICHOLAS (London Office).

SURREY

12 MILES LONDON.

AN ATTRACTIVE MODERN HOUSE



in a charming rural setting.

4 PRINCIPAL AND 2 STAFF BEDROOMS, 3 BATHROOMS, 2 RECEPTION ROOMS, STUDY, STAFF SITTING-ROOM.

Central heating.

Main services.

DOUBLE GARAGE.

NICELY LAID OUT GARDENS AND GROUNDS OF ABOUT 2 ACRES
FOR SALE FREEHOLD

Further details apply Messrs. NICHOLAS (London Office).

GROsvenor 2838 (2 lines)
MAYfair 0388

TURNER LORD & RANSOM

127, MOUNT STREET, LONDON, W.1

Telegrams:
Turloran, Audley, London

£3,150 FREEHOLD



A CHARMINGLY SITUATED FREEHOLD COTTAGE RESIDENCE

On an eminence with extensive views. Occupying a secluded position but not isolated—on THE DORSET COAST.

Apply: TURNER LORD & RANSOM, 127, Mount Street, London, W.1.

HALL, CLOAKROOM, 3 BEDROOMS, BATHROOM, KITCHENETTE, NEW RAYBURN STOVE, LARGE SITTING ROOM.

MAIN ELECTRICITY, WATER AND DRAINAGE

EASILY RUN GARDEN



HAMPTON & SONS

6, ARLINGTON STREET, ST. JAMES'S, S.W.1

HYDE PARK 8222 (20 lines)

Telegrams: "Selanet, Piccy, London"

SUSSEX

Within a short motor run of Lewes and close to an excellent bus service.

SUSSEX MANOR HOUSE OF THE 17th CENTURY



A RARE AND BEAUTIFUL HOUSE skillfully modernised.

Lounge (22 ft. 9 ins. by 17 ft. 6 ins.), drawing room (22 ft. by 15 ft. 4 ins.), dining room (19 ft. 3 ins. by 18 ft.), small study, principal bedroom (19 ft. by 19 ft.), dressing room, 5 other bedrooms (fitted basins), 3 baths., Aga.

Oil-fired central heating. Co.'s water.

Electric light and power.

GARAGE. FARM BUILDINGS. BARN.

EXCELLENT COTTAGE.

INEXPENSIVE GROUNDS WITH
LOVELY WATER AND ROCK GARDEN,
Grassland.

IN ALL ABOUT 13 ACRES. FOR SALE FREEHOLD. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

Agents: HAMPTON & SONS, 6, Arlington Street, St. James's, S.W.1. (C.47136)

BETWEEN GODALMING & HASLEMERE

In lovely country close to main-line station.

GENTLEMAN'S SMALL PLEASURE FARM OF 78 ACRES



Charming Period Farmhouse in exceptional order with compact accommodation. Hall, lounge, study, dining room, modern kitchen, bathroom, 3 bedrooms. Also:

Bungalow with living room, 3 bedrooms, kitchenette and bathroom.

Main electricity and water.

Secluded garden with swimming pool.

FULL RANGE OF VALUABLE MODERN BUILDINGS INCLUDING 8 LOOSE BOXES, DUTCH BARN, DEEP-LITTER HOUSES

Pastures and woodlands. Freehold for sale.

Agents: HAMPTON & SONS, 6, Arlington Street, St. James's, S.W.1. (S.58138)

WEST SUSSEX

About 3 miles from the main-line station of Pulborough.

FOR SALE



A SMALL LUXURY FARM OF ABOUT 85 ACRES

with a beautifully fitted and labour-saving house.

LOUNGE about 26 ft. by 18 ft., DINING ROOM, STUDY, 4 BEDROOMS, 3 BATHROOMS

Central heating throughout. Co.'s electric light and water.

2 VERY GOOD COTTAGES

Model set of farm buildings—T.T. and Attested. Land in excellent heart.

VACANT POSSESSION OF THE WHOLE

OPEN TO ANY REASONABLE OFFER

Apply, HAMPTON & SONS, 6, Arlington Street, St. James's, S.W.1. (C.59630)

KENT

Nicely placed in rural surroundings between Tonbridge and Penshurst. Good outlook. 1½ miles main-line station.

A DELIGHTFUL COUNTRY HOUSE IN THE GEORGIAN STYLE

On two floors only.

Well fitted and equipped.

Hall, cloakroom, 3 bright reception rooms. 5 bedrooms (2 with basins), dressing room, 2 bathrooms, convenient offices including kitchen with Aga cooker.

Garage for 3.

Useful outbuildings.

Main electricity and water. Complete central heating. Oak joinery. Parquet floors.



COLOURFUL GROUNDS WITH GOOD ORCHARD, 2½ ACRES

FOR SALE FREEHOLD £7,500. LOW OUTGOINGS

Recommended by Joint Sole Agents:
Messrs. BROOKS & SON, High Street, Tonbridge (Tel. 3303) and
HAMPTON & SONS, 6, Arlington Street, St. James's, S.W.1. (K.33769)

FIRST TIME IN THE MARKET

HADLEY WOOD, HERTS

(Only 11 miles north of Town.)

A FINE EXAMPLE OF MODERN DOMESTIC AGRICULTURE

Designed by an eminent architect to the present owner's specifications.

4 principal, 2 secondary bedrooms, dressing room, 2 well-fitted bathrooms, 3 handsome reception, Cloakroom and complete offices.

Central heating.

Excellent joinery.

Garage 2 cars.



Beautifully cared for gardens, approx. 1½ ACRES. FREEHOLD £9,750

Recommended by HAMPTON & SONS, 6, Arlington Street, St. James's, S.W.1. (R.3310)

BERMUDA

DELIGHTFUL WATERSIDE RESIDENCE WITH PRIVATE BEACH



MODERNISED OLD BERMUDA HOUSE

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms. Sun porch, patio.

GARAGE

Main electricity.

Under 2 acres and private white sand bathing beach.



£18,000 UNFURNISHED. NO INCOME TAX OR DEATH DUTY IN BERMUDA

Personally inspected by HAMPTON & SONS as above and FLITCROFT & CO. Hamilton, Bermuda. (Ref. BER. 1020)

BRANCH OFFICES: WIMBLEDON COMMON, S.W.19; BOURNEMOUTH, HANTS; AND BISHOP'S STORTFORD, HERTS

HYDE PARK
4304

OSBORN & MERCER

MEMBERS OF THE CHARTERED SURVEYORS' AND AUCTIONEERS' INSTITUTES

HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
In rural surroundings, only 28 miles from London, convenient for station and Green Line coach service.**A Charming Modernised Easily Run Little House of Character**

In first-class order.

With hall, downstairs cloakroom, 2 reception rooms, 3 double bedrooms, bathroom.

Central heating. Main services. Garage.

Small inexpensive garden.

FREEHOLD £4,500 OR NEAR OFFER
Sole Agents: OSBORN & MERCER, as above. (20,317)**READING AND BASINGSTOKE**
Well appointed and ideally situated in a village.**A SMALL BRICK-BUILT HOUSE**
With 2 reception rooms, 5-6 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms.**Central Heating. Main Services.****Garages, stabling, outbuildings.**

Partly walled garden, vegetable garden, fruit trees, etc.

In all ABOUT 1 ACRE**PRICE FREEHOLD ONLY £4,800**

Agents: OSBORN & MERCER, as above. (19,838)

DEVON, NEAR MARKET TOWN
Set in a picturesque rural position on a south slope surrounded by beautifully timbered grounds.**A Charming Georgian Residence****All on 2 floors** with 3 reception rooms, 8 bedrooms, 1 bathroom. Main services. 2 Garages and Useful Outbuildings. Delightfully secluded gardens, walled fruit and vegetable garden, etc., in all **ABOUT 4 ACRES****FREEHOLD ONLY £6,000 FOR QUICK SALE**

Agents: OSBORN & MERCER, as above. (20,302)

28D, ALBEMARLE STREET,
PICCADILLY, W.1**MID-SOMERSET**

South of the Mendip Hills near the city of Wells.

Charming Small Stone-built Period Residence

In first-class order and thoroughly modernised. Panelled hall, 2 reception rooms, modern domestic offices, 4 bedrooms, bathroom.

Main Electricity and Water. Garage for 2 cars.

Lovely walled old-world garden of just under 1 ACRE

FREEHOLD ONLY £5,950 OR NEAR OFFER

Agents: OSBORN & MERCER, as above. (20,589)

IN A VILLAGE NEAR AYLESBURY

Facing south, some 500 feet above sea level and commanding fine views.

A Delightful Stone-built House

With 3 reception rooms, 6 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms.

Main electricity and water. Garage.Well-maintained garden of **ABOUT 1 ACRE****FREEHOLD ONLY £5,750 OR NEAR OFFER**

Agents: OSBORN & MERCER, as above. (20,576)

3, MOUNT STREET,
LONDON, W.1.

RALPH PAY & TAYLOR

GROsvenor
1032-33-34**SURREY/KENT BORDERS**

In a delightful rural setting only 25 miles from London.

**AN OUTSTANDING RESIDENTIAL AND MIXED FARM OF ABOUT 140 ACRES. A LOVELY TUDOR HOUSE**, fully restored and modernised. 5 bedrooms, 3 baths., 3 reception, model up-to-date offices with Aga and Agamatic. Main electricity and water. Garage. MODERN COTTAGE and FIRST CLASS BUILDINGS. HIGHLY PRODUCTIVE LAND. **FREEHOLD FOR SALE.****WEST CORNWALL. On the Truro-Falmouth River**

In a sheltered position amidst most beautiful countryside, enjoying fine panoramic views.

A YACHTSMAN'S PARADISE

On a creek adjacent to main stream. Grounds to foreshore with landing stage.

Exceptional facilities for deep water anchorage.

A REALLY CHARMING SMALL GEORGIAN RESIDENCE

modernised and in perfect condition. 8 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, compact offices. Partial central heating, electric light, own water supply. GARAGE for 3 or 4 cars. Small

MODEL FARMERY COTTAGE

Adjacent to the HOUSE is an attractive GAZEBO 31 ft. 9 ins. by 18 ft. 6 ins., forming music or dance room.

INEXPENSIVE GARDENS with variety of specimen trees and flowering shrubs.

Orchard, kitchen and fruit garden. Enclosures of grassland.

In all about **5 1/2 ACRES FREEHOLD FOR SALE**

Personally inspected and confidently recommended by the Owner's Sole Agents:

RALPH PAY & TAYLOR, 3, Mount Street, London, W.1.



Tel. MAYfair

0023-4

R. C. KNIGHT & SONS

130, MOUNT STREET,
LONDON, W.1.**APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM GENUINE PROSPECTIVE PURCHASERS SEEKING PROPERTIES ANSWERING THE FOLLOWING DESCRIPTIONS****AN AGRICULTURAL ESTATE OF BETWEEN 800 AND 2,000 ACRES** (must have a minimum of 500 acres in hand, but no objection if whole estate with vacant possession.) Good shoot essential and lake or river providing fishing an advantage. Medium size principal residence, 8-10 bedrooms, etc. GEORGIAN or QUEEN ANNE PREFERRED. Districts favoured include WEST SUSSEX, HAMPSHIRE, WILTS or BERKS or parts of EAST ANGLIA, within 70 miles of London. (Ref. R.A.C.)**GEORGIAN OR QUEEN ANNE RESIDENCE** (other periods might be considered) with 3/4 reception rooms, 6 principal bedrooms, and minimum of 2 bathrooms plus, say, 4 rooms and bathroom for staff. Land from 75 to 500 acres to include Home Farm in hand. Districts preferred: rural HAMPSHIRE, DORSET, NORFOLK or BORDER COUNTRY (in which case larger area considered). (Ref. A.)**TUDOR, ELIZABETHAN OR GEORGIAN RESIDENCE** with 2/4 reception rooms, 6 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, within 1 1/2 to 2 hours of London. A REALLY FIRST-CLASS PROPERTY IS REQUIRED together with sufficient land for seclusion or small farm of about 60 acres. **UP TO £18,000 WILL BE PAID FOR SUITABLE PLACE.** (Ref. R.C.)

Details of properties similar to above descriptions may be forwarded to R. C. KNIGHT & SON, 130, Mount St., W.1, and they will be treated in confidence if Vendor does not wish the property to be placed in the open market.

And at NORWICH, STOWMARKET, BURY ST. EDMUNDS, CAMBRIDGE, HOLT and HADLEIGH

Esher
WALTON-ON-THAMES
WEYBRIDGE
SUNBURY-ON-THAMES**ESHER****OPEN OUTLOOK AT REAR**

Convenient buses and station, in pleasant residential road.

SUPERBLY MAINTAINED MODERN DOUBLE FRONTED HOUSE

4 BEDROOMS, LARGE BATHROOM, THROUGH 21-ft. LOUNGE, DINING ROOM, LOGGIA, SPACIOUS HALL, MODEL 18-ft. KITCHEN WITH AGA BOILER.

DETACHED BRICK GARAGE.

Pleasant easy garden.

FREEHOLD £5,400

Sole Agents. Esher Office: 70, High Street. Tel. 3537-8.

MANN & CO.
WEST SURREYHASLEMERE
GUILDFORD
WOKING
WEST BYFLEET**DELIGHTFUL 17th-CENTURY COTTAGE**

In pleasant rural setting, 3 miles Woking Station (Waterloo 27 minutes).

3 bedrooms, dressing room, bathroom, hall cloaks, delightful L-shaped lounge with inglenook, dining room, kitchen with Aga. Electricity and water, modern drainage, central heating. **2 ACRES.** 2 garages. Woking Office: 2, High Street. Tel. 3800-3.**GUILDFORD**

Close centre of the town, in quiet backwater.

ELEGANT GEORGIAN RESIDENCE

Brought up-to-date with labour-saving kitchen and modern bathroom.

4 BEDROOMS, BATHROOM, LOUNGE/DINING ROOM COMMUNICATING. PRETTY WALLED GARDEN. USEFUL STORE OR WORKSHOP.

All main services. Immaculate condition.

**FREEHOLD £4,850
OR OFFER**

Guildford Office: 22, Epsom Road. Tel. 62911-2.

GROsvenor 1553
(4 lines)

GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS

(ESTABLISHED 1778)
25, MOUNT STREET, GROSVENOR SQUARE, LONDON, W.1

13, Hobart Place,
Eaton Square,
5, West Halkin Street,
Belgrave Square,
London, S.W.1.

WEST SUSSEX COAST NEAR WORTHING

Within a mile of the Beach and a main line station.

GRACEFUL QUEEN ANNE RECTORY

Walking distance of village and bus services.

6/7 BEDROOMS, 3 BATHROOMS, 4 RECEPTION ROOMS.

MAIN SERVICES. COTTAGE.

ABOUT 1 ACRE

FREEHOLD, £6,500 FOR EARLY SALE

GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS, 25, Mount Street, London, W.1. C.B.A. (BX.1088).

SOUTH ESSEX

Amidst rural surroundings between Downham and Wickford. Near bus route. 1½ miles station.



Substantially built Residence. Ideal for use as nursing or convalescent home. 6-7 bed., bath., 4 recep. rooms, recreation room. Main gas, water and electricity. 2 garages. **2½ ACRES with lake.** £4,250 **FREEHOLD**. GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS, 25, Mount Street, London, W.1. D.L. (BX.1108.)

FIRST-CLASS DAIRY, SHEEP AND MIXED FARM

West Country, towards Welsh border, 3 hours only from London.

Comprising rich red loam on sheltered and early south slope.

SUPERIOR FARMHOUSE RESIDENCE

6 BEDROOMS, BATHROOM, ETC. 3 COTTAGES. MAIN ELECTRICITY.

Excellent piped water supply from reservoir.

FINE RANGE OF BUILDINGS.

Including cowhouse for 60 with water and electricity.

270 ACRES. VACANT POSSESSION

Recommended by GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS, 25, Mount Street, London, W.1. R.A.W. (8845)

GROsvenor
2861

TRESIDDER & CO.

77, SOUTH AUDLEY STREET, LONDON, W.1.

Telegrams:
"Cornishmen (Audley) London"

OXFORD & READING (Between)

Hour London by express trains (3½ miles station). On outskirts of pretty village.

CHARMING TUDOR HOUSE

Modernised and in excellent order.

Hall, cloakroom, 2 reception rooms (one 28 ft. by 17 ft.), 2 bathrooms, 5 principal bedrooms.

STAFF COTTAGE

Sitting room, bathroom and 3 bedrooms.

Main electricity and water. Central heating.

GARAGE, BARN, T.T. COWHOUSE, PIGGERY

Inexpensive yet charming gardens, paddock and pasture.

22 ACRES. REGISTERED AS A FARM

Sole Agents: TRESIDDER & CO., 77, South Audley Street, W.1. (16,237)

SURREY

3 miles main-line station (35 minutes London). 5 East Grinstead, near bus.

A SUBSTANTIALLY BUILT COUNTRY HOUSE

in good order, and with all labour-saving conveniences. 6-7 bedrooms (h/c), 2 bathrooms, 3 reception and 1 lounge. Central heating, main electricity and water.

GARAGE AND STABLING

Beautifully timbered grounds, tennis lawn.

Walled kitchen garden, paddock and woodland.

4 ACRES. FREEHOLD

Sole Agents: TRESIDDER & CO., 77, South Audley Street, W.1. (23,015)

SURREY. £4,750

Close to station (Waterloo 30 minutes), walking distance churches, schools and shops. Recently decorated. 5 bed., playroom, bath., 2 reception, lounge-hall, modern kitchen. All mains. Garage. Pleasant garden.

TRESIDDER & CO., 77, South Audley Street, W.1. (29,525)

£7,950. FREEHOLD HASLEMERE

Magnificent position, 550 ft. up. Views to South Downs.

Town centre under a mile. Station 1½ miles (Waterloo under an hour).

BEAUTIFULLY EQUIPPED COUNTRY HOUSE

6-7 bedrooms (4 h. and c.), 2 bathrooms, billiards room, 3 reception rooms, galleried hall, modernised kitchen. Oak paneling and woodwork. Oil-fired central heating.

Main electricity and water. Excellent heated garage.

Delightful grounds, easily maintained. Tennis and other lawns. Fine shrubs and trees.

ABOUT 3 ACRES

TRESIDDER & CO., 77, South Audley Street, W.1 (10,817)

WILTS. 16 ACRES

In unspoilt country, close to village. Good sporting district.

DIGNIFIED SMALL MANOR HOUSE

7 bed. (all h. and c.), 4 bathrooms, 4 reception rooms, good domestic offices.

All main services. Gas-fired central heating.

Esse cooker. Stabling. Garage for 3. 3 COTTAGES.

Delightful garden, partly walled, and easily maintained. Paddock, pastureland and spinney.

TRESIDDER & CO., 77, South Audley Street, W.1. (24,595)

£4,000. FREEHOLD. OXON—BUCKS BORDERS

In picturesque old market town.

Convenient for rail and bus services, and R.C.C. and C. of E.

Exceptionally charming old house, dating from 12th century, modernised and in excellent order. Hall, cloakroom, 3 reception rooms, bathroom, 4 bedrooms.

All main services. Central heating. Double garage. Secluded walled garden.

TRESIDDER & CO., 77, South Audley Street, W.1. (20,772)

RAWLENCE & SQUAREY, F.R.I.C.S.

SALISBURY, LONDON, SHERBORNE, SOUTHAMPTON, TAUNTON

SOUTH WILTSHIRE. NEAR SALISBURY

Salisbury 5 miles, Waterloo 1½ hours by fast trains, 20 miles coast.

MODERN RESIDENCE IN QUEEN ANNE STYLE

7 BEDROOMS, 5 BATHROOMS, 3-4 RECEPTION ROOMS.
STAFF FLAT, STAFF BUNGALOW. GARAGES

WALLED GARDEN, PASTURE, WILD GARDEN,
AND SWIMMING POOL



IN ALL ABOUT 12 ACRES

PRICE ONLY £7,500

NO OFFERS

TO ENSURE IMMEDIATE SALE, ALL WITH
POSSESSION

SMALL FARM ADJOINING OF 26 ACRES with model buildings and 2 cottages, available with possession if required.

Apply, Salisbury Office (Tel. 2467/8).

DORKING (Tel. 2212)
EFFINGHAM (Tel. Bookham 2801)
BOOKHAM (Tel. 2744)

CUBITT & WEST

HASLEMERE (Tel. 680)
FARNHAM (Tel. 5261)
HINDHEAD (Tel. 63)

IN THE GLORIOUS COWDRAY COUNTRY

Main line 4½ miles. Waterloo 1 hour.

MODERNISED 17th-CENTURY COUNTRY RESIDENCE



Situated in much sought after residential district. Compact, labour-saving accommodation comprises lounge hall, drawing room, dining room, domestic offices, 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Double garage. SUPERIOR COTTAGE ATTESTED FARM BUILDINGS 22 ACRES (part let).

FOR SALE BY PRIVATE TREATY OR AUCTION LATER

CUBITT & WEST, Haslemere Office. (H.154)

OVERLOOKING BEAUTIFUL WHITMORE VALE

GEORGIAN-STYLE STONE-BUILT COUNTRY RESIDENCE

OPPOSITE GOLF COURSE

Charming secluded residence in excellent order.

3 reception rooms, compact offices, 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms.

CENTRAL HEATING

Self-contained flat.
Garage.

COTTAGE

Attractive formal and Wild garden of nearly 4 ACRES



PRICE FREEHOLD £9,500

CUBITT & WEST, Haslemere Office. (H.155)

(The Agents very strongly recommend this property.)

5, MOUNT STREET,
LONDON, W.1
GROsvenor
3131-2 and 4744-5

CURTIS & HENSON

ESTABLISHED 1875

and at
21, HORSEFAIR,
BANBURY, OXON
Tel. 3295-6

WONDERFULLY HEALTHY ALL THE YEAR ROUND CLIMATE

SOUTH AFRICA—CAPE TOWN



Picturesquely situated in front of Muizenberg Mountain, occupying a magnificent position on sea-front between Cape Town and Naval Station Simonstown, and with beautiful view over False Bay.

THE FORT, MUIZENBERG

This superb modern property, originally built as a Legation, with lovely Italian interior decoration, on the site of an old Dutch Fort and with valuable main road frontage:

comprising
Entrance hall, 5 reception rooms, ballroom, boudoir, 7 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, very fine domestic offices, electric lift, staff accommodation, garage for 3 cars, 1 gardener's cottage, guest house, swimming pool filled by sea-water.

Very safe sea bathing opposite house, beautifully designed terraced gardens

ABOUT 3 ACRES

FOR SALE FREEHOLD

UNFURNISHED

Agents: CURTIS & HENSON, as above.



OXON—2 miles from BANBURY
CHARMING OLD GEORGIAN MANOR HOUSE
Recently the subject of considerable expenditure and now ready for immediate occupation.



Contains entrance hall, cloakroom, 3 fine reception rooms, 5 main bedrooms, dressing room and 2 bedrooms. Staff flat with bathroom. Range of stone-built outbuildings with garaging. Company's water, gas, electric light and power. Completely secluded walled garden.

ABOUT 1 3/4 ACRES.

FOR SALE FREEHOLD. NO REASONABLE OFFER REFUSED

Agents: CURTIS & HENSON, Banbury office.

NORTHANTS—OXON BORDERS

6 miles north-east of Banbury
CHARMING VILLAGE HOUSE BUILT OF HORNTON STONE



Contains: Square entrance hall, cloakroom, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, 4 bedrooms, 2 dressing rooms and bathroom. Main services, garage, etc. Attractive garden with small orchard.

ABOUT 3/4 ACRE

PRICE £3,750 FREEHOLD

CURTIS & HENSON, as above.

IN A DELIGHTFUL PART OF SUSSEX CLOSE TO ASHDOWN FOREST



Charming Light and Sunny Semi-Bungalow
designed in the Colonial style, within easy travelling distance of London, and comprising 4-5 bedrooms, 3 reception rooms (two 23 ft.), Entrance hall with cloakroom, kitchen and bathroom. Central heating. Double garage. **1 ACRE** of secluded and well-kept garden.

PRICE £4,950 FREEHOLD

CURTIS & HENSON, as above.

56, BAKER STREET,
LONDON, W.1

DRUCE & Co., LTD.

ESTABLISHED 1822
WELbeck 4488 (20 lines)

DIDCOT, BERKS. FINE TUDOR FARMHOUSE fully modernised, 4 bedrooms, etc., 12 acres most productive land, range of buildings. Drastically reduced as owner emigrating. **PRICE £6,950 FREEHOLD** C.80

MAIDENHEAD, BERKS. Owner moving to town offers this FINE RESIDENCE on **1 3/4 ACRES** with paddock. 6 bedrooms, 2 reception, staff quarters. Immaculate order throughout. **£5,750 FREEHOLD.** C.137.

WOODCOTE, NR. HENLEY, OXON. Delightful THATCHED TUDOR COTTAGE on **3/4 OF AN ACRE.** Completely renovated and modernised. Close country bus route. 2 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, bathroom. Modern drainage. **£2,700 FREEHOLD.** C.136.

HENLEY SHIPLAKE. In secluded grounds of **1/4 ACRE**, 5 minutes from station. 3 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, usual offices. **REASONABLY PRICED FOR EARLY SALE.** C.138.

STANSTED (ESSEX), NR. BISHOP'S STORTFORD. Impressive HALF-TIMBERED RESIDENCE on **3 ACRES.** 2 reception rooms and study, 5 main bedrooms, usual offices. Garage. **£6,000 FREEHOLD.** C.198.

BOURNEMOUTH, HANTS. in a much sought after residential area. Detached and secluded. 3 large reception rooms, 4 bedrooms, staff room, usual offices. Garage. **£6,500 FREEHOLD.** C.202.

SHERINGHAM, NORFOLK. with views over the countryside and sea. MODERN DETACHED PROPERTY, 4 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, etc. Owner posted to town, must sell. **£4,500 FREEHOLD.** C.196.

DISS, NORFOLK. OLD SUFFOLK COTTAGE, on **1/4 ACRE.** Many exposed beams. 4 bedrooms, 2 living rooms. Only **£950 FREEHOLD.** C.2739.

This is necessarily only a short selection from our extensive register. Inquiries for Properties in all areas receive immediate attention. Write or 'phone for lists in counties required.

XVI TH-CENTURY MODERNISED BARN, NR. BOGNOR. comprising 6 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, 2 bathrooms, etc. Grounds of **3/4 ACRE** afford delightful setting. **£5,250 FREEHOLD.** C.2602.

MINEHEAD, SOMERSET. Unique easily run MANSION on **17 ACRES** with wonderful views. 10 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 4 reception rooms in superb condition and offered at the very low figure of **£8,500 FREEHOLD** to ensure early sale. C.2512.

ISLE OF MAN. Delightfully appointed BUNGALOW in pretty seaside village. 20-ft. lounge, 3 bedrooms, garage, fully modernised. Owner posted to London would accept offers around **£2,750 FREEHOLD.** C.203.

EAST SUSSEX. Colonial style TIMBER BUNGALOW in lovely setting. 3 bedrooms, lounge (20 ft. by 15 ft.), kitchen, bathroom, etc., on **2 ACRES. ONLY £1,500 FREEHOLD.** C.171.

SUNNINGDALE
Tel. Ascot 63 and 64

CHANCELLORS & CO.

And at Ascot
Tel. 1 and 2

WINDSOR FOREST AREA
Beautiful rural situation. 3 miles Ascot. Close bus route.



A perfectly appointed and easily run House on **2 floors.** Many features include fine polished parquet floors, carved pine mantelpieces, central heating throughout. Excellent cupboards. All mains. Aga cooker. 4 master bedrooms each with beautiful bathroom en suite, 6 other bedrooms and bathrooms, 4 fine reception rooms, up-to-date kitchen quarters. Garage 4/5 cars. Fine modern flat. Inexpensive garden and meadowland, about **7 1/4 ACRES**, with useful farm buildings. **FOR SALE FREEHOLD.** CHANCELLORS & CO., as above.

SUNNINGDALE GOLF COURSE

Almost facing the club house. 7 minutes from station (Waterloo 40 minutes).

AN EXCEPTIONALLY WELL-APPOINTED HOUSE

Tastefully decorated and in perfect order.

4 bedrooms, 2 well-fitted bathrooms, 3 reception rooms (with Regency-style mantels), first-class kitchen, 2 second-story bedrooms or attics. Excellent cupboard accommodation.

Efficient central-heating system. Gas boiler.

ALL MAIN SERVICES. GARAGE.

Very pleasing garden, secluded and easy to maintain.

ABOUT 1/2 ACRE

PRICE £6,900

IMMEDIATE POSSESSION

Recommended by the Agents, CHANCELLORS & CO., as above.

Without a doubt the most unique Small Property on the market.

WENTWORTH ESTATE

Adjoining golf course. 1 1/2 miles Sunningdale



DELIGHTFUL MODERNISED COTTAGE RESIDENCE with fine walled garden. 4 bed., 2 bath., 2 rec. Double garage. Central heating. Main services. **ABOUT ONE ACRE. FOR SALE FREEHOLD.** Of special appeal to those seeking a small labour-saving home, full of charm and character, in a secluded position, immune from development.

Recommended by CHANCELLORS & CO., as above.

23, MOUNT STREET,
GROSVENOR SQUARE, LONDON, W.1

UNSPOLIT SUSSEX

Picked position 300 ft. up with views to the sea. Walking distance of village and station.



OLD MANOR HOUSE. SMALL HOME FARM
6 beds., 3 baths., 3 reception, staff flat. Mains. Aga. Cottage. Old-world gardens. Farmhouse and buildings. Standings for 7.

FREEHOLD WITH NEARLY 20 ACRES

WILSON & CO.

HIGHEST PART OF ESHER

In the best residential district and only 15 miles London. Easy reach of shops and station (Waterloo 20 minutes).



IDEALLY PLACED FOR THE BUSINESS MAN
Perfectly equipped Modern House. 5 beds. (2 with basins), 2 baths., hall, 2 reception, sun parlour, compact offices with sitting room. Main services. Partial central heating, 2 garages. Charming gardens.

FREEHOLD WITH ABOUT 1 ACRE

GR. Devonor
1441

WILTSHIRE DOWNS

Outskirts of village between Salisbury and Devizes. Easy reach main line. Ideal for one or two families.



SMALL GEORGIAN HOUSE WITH SELF-CONTAINED FARMHOUSE STYLE WING
3/4 beds., bath., 3 reception, new model kitchen. Wing has 2 beds., bath., 2 reception, separate entrance and garden. Main electricity. Garage for 2. Barn and farm buildings, walled garden and paddocks.

£4,950 WITH 4 ACRES

House and gardens only might be sold separately.

WINCHESTER
FLEET
FARNBOROUGH

ALFRED PEARSON & SON

HARTLEY WINTNEY
ALDERSHOT
ALRESFORD

IDEAL FOR CONVERSION

In a lovely unspoilt rural locality, close to village and bus route, 4 miles main line station
DETACHED COACH HOUSE AND STABLE WITH ROOMS ABOVE

Main services, outbuildings and greenhouse. Orchard, kitchen garden and swimming pool.

£1,250 FREEHOLD

Extra pasture land available if required.

Hartley Wintney Office (Tel. 233).

ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF WINCHESTER

A MEDIUM-SIZE CHARACTER RESIDENCE. IDEAL FOR CONVERSION

2 reception rooms, maid's sitting room, 5 bedrooms, dressing room, bathroom. Central heating. Main services. Garage. Easily maintained garden.

ONLY £2,250 FREEHOLD. VACANT POSSESSION

Winchester Office (Tel. 3388).

JUST ERECTED IN A POPULAR COUNTRY TOWN OF NORTH HAMPSHIRE

(Waterloo under the hour).

ATTRACTIVE DETACHED RESIDENCE, BRICK BUILT, SNOWCEM FINISH

Pleasant yet convenient position. Easy reach shops, churches and station.

4 BEDROOMS, BATHROOM, ATTRACTIVE DRAWING ROOM, DINING ROOM AND EXCELLENT OFFICES. ALL SERVICES.

£4,500 FREEHOLD. RECOMMENDED

Full details and layout plan on application.

Fleet Office (Tel. 1066).



GASCOIGNE-PEES

SURBITON, LEATHERHEAD, DORKING, REIGATE, GUILDFORD



ESHER'S PRECINCTS

Abutting on to woodland slope, with shops and station (Waterloo 23 minutes) under 5 minutes' walk away.
In this ideal location is exceptionally appealing double-fronted **Detached Residence offered at reasonable price of £4,350 freehold**, as owner, having moved north, must sell promptly. Oak-panelled hall, beautiful lounge with artistic inglenook brick fireplace, large dining room, exceptionally fine kitchen, 3 bedrooms, spacious tiled bathroom. Brick garage.

Apply: "Charter House," Surbiton, Elmbridge 4141.

MELLOWED CHARM

Aptly described this delightful Surrey residence in mature setting, only 14 miles of London.

GOING ABOARD In New Year necessitates owner selling promptly his very lovely home. Imposing lounge-hall, cloakroom, 2 handsome reception with polished oak floors, 4 bedrooms, luxurious bathroom, splendid offices including breakfast room. 2 garages (one of which could be sold off). Established garden with undulating lawns, including tennis, fine greenhouse. **£5,750 FREEHOLD, or without second garage £5,000 gns.**

Apply: Gascoigne-Pees, "Charter House," Surbiton, Elmbridge 4141.

IN A LOVELY WOODLAND SETTING

Kingswood, Surrey. Close to station and golf course.



BEAUTIFULLY KEPT MODERN COTTAGE.

Spacious hall with cloakroom, 2 20-ft. reception rooms, 3 bedrooms with basins, kitchen, breakfast room, tiled bathroom. Garage. **1 ACRE** of woodland garden.

PRICE £5,950 FREEHOLD

Apply 6, Church Street, Reigate (Tel. 4422).

TWO SELF-CONTAINED FLATS

BOTH WITH VACANT POSSESSION

HIGHER GROUND OF EPSOM, with easy access to town centre.

SOUND DETACHED HOUSE

Well converted since war.

EACH FLAT has delightful lounge (about 16 ft. by 16 ft.), dining room, well equipped modern kitchen, luxurious modern bathroom, 2 double bedrooms.

LARGE BRICK GARAGE

Pleasant well stocked garden.

PRICE £5,500 FREEHOLD

Apply 4, Bridge Street, Leatherhead. Tel. 4133/4.

Tel.
NEWBURY 304 and 1620

A. W. NEATE & SONS

Tel.
HUNTERFORD 8

In a very readily accessible position on the southern slope of the hills between NEWBURY and READING, surrounded by attractive rural country.

SMALL FARMHOUSE

Now a private residence standing well away from the road, but not isolated; thoroughly modernised and redecorated throughout. 3 beds., bath (h. and c.), 2 rec., domestic offices. All large rooms. Double garage. About **1½ ACRES**. Electric light. Good water supply. Septic tank drainage.

VACANT. FREEHOLD £3,500

In a convenient situation in the NEWBURY-READING-BASINGSTOKE TRIANGLE, enjoying an attractive outlook over its own grounds, which fall to a small stream at the lowest point.

SMALL CHARACTER COTTAGE

Built of brick (Snowcem) with slated roof. Containing 3 beds., bath, (h. and c.), 2 sitting., kitchen and offices. Range of outbuildings. Small garden with fruit and natural wild "dell" with small stream of clear running water at lowest point. Main water and electricity. Septic tank drainage.

VACANT. FREEHOLD £2,900

In a much-favoured village on the BERKS-HANTS BORDERS, surrounded by parks and private estates. On a bus route.

COMFORTABLE FAMILY RESIDENCE

For sale for Executors to close estate. 7/8 beds., bath, (h. and c.), lounge hall and 2 rec., cloaks (h. and c.), kitchen and domestic offices. Garden and paddock, in all about **8½ ACRES**. Garage and stable and gardener's cottage. Electric light. Central heating. Water laid on.

BARGAIN PRICE £5,000. VACANT. FREEHOLD

Close to the town, but not in suburban area, within easy reach of shopping centre.

GENUINE REGENCY HOUSE

Forming part of larger residence, having beautiful rooms and the graciousness of the period, expensively modernised. 4/5 beds., bath, (h. and c.), 2 rec., cloaks (h. and c.), kitchen, etc.

Garage. Walled garden. All main services and part central heating.

VACANT. FREEHOLD £3,800

In the notably beautiful and unspoiled LAMBOURN VALLEY.

PERIOD COTTAGE

ADJACENT BERKSHIRE DOWNS
brick and thatched; of great antiquity and beauty, with massive timbering and thoroughly modernised. 5 beds., bath, (h. and c.), 3 sitting rooms and domestic offices. Picturesque garage and outbuildings. Delightful garden (part walled) intersected by stream. Main water and electricity installed and main drainage available.

VACANT. FREEHOLD £4,750

In a very quiet and retired position in a small hamlet, on the hills between NEWBURY and ANDOVER, with lovely views, and ideal for retirement on a small pension.

ATTRACTIVE SMALL COTTAGE

Well modernised and of extremely inexpensive upkeep. 2 bedrooms (fitted h. and c. basins), 2 bathrooms (h. and c.), sitting and dining rooms, kitchen and offices. Small, easily run garden. Main electricity and water.

VACANT. FREEHOLD £2,500

JOHN D. WOOD & CO.

SOMERSET—WILTSHIRE BORDER

BATH 12 MILES, 5 MILES MAIN LINE STATION

A MOST LOVELY QUEEN ANNE HOUSE

with outstanding contemporary features in parkland setting with open views of Downs.

4 PRINCIPAL BEDROOMS,
5 SECONDARY,
1 DRESSING ROOM,
3 BATHROOMS,
3 RECEPTION ROOMS

Main electricity and water.

Joint Sole Agents: RAWLENCE & SQUAREY, Salisbury (Tel. 2167/8), and JOHN D. WOOD & CO., 23, Berkeley Square, London, W.1. (R.71,663)



IN A SUSSEX VILLAGE

About an hour from London; good bus service to Tunbridge Wells and the coast.

The subject of two articles in "Country Life."

BEAUTIFUL
WILLIAM AND MARY HOUSE
with original panelling and ceilings.

6 BEDROOMS, DRESSING ROOM, 2 BATHROOMS,
3 RECEPTION ROOMS, STAFF FLAT. GARAGE
FOR 2 CARS

Central heating; main services.

SMALL BUT LOVELY WALLED GARDEN

FOR SALE

Full particulars from the Agents:
JOHN D. WOOD & CO. (C.33,028)

SUSSEX. 15 miles from the coast
CHARMING PERIOD RESIDENCE, DATING
FROM 17TH CENTURY, IN RURAL SURROUND-
INGS, AND WITH A MAGNIFICENT OUTLOOK



Beautifully equipped and with some Georgian-style rooms, together with a small T.T. AND ATTESTED FARM. The residence contains lounge hall, 3 reception rooms, 5 principal bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 staff rooms. Exceptionally fitted kitchen and bathrooms. Main electricity and water; central heating. GARAGE FOR 3 CARS. Ballif's cottage, model farm buildings. Pasture, arable and woodland. IN ALL 33 ACRES
The house and gardens would be sold separately if desired.

Sole Agents: JOHN D. WOOD & CO., 23, Berkeley Square, London, W.1. (R.33,182)

FIRST TIME IN THE MARKET. OXON—BERKS BORDER ABOUT 70 ACRES FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION



Luxurious Modern Residence, magnificently sited, with distant views, on the hills above Goring. Lounge hall, handsome drawing room, dining room, sitting room, morning room, model kitchen with Esse cooker, 8 principal bed or dressing rooms (all with basins), 5 bathrooms, 4 staff bedrooms. Central heating; main water and electricity. Oak floors. GARAGES, FARMERY, 3 EXCELLENT COTTAGES. Ornamental grounds and kitchen garden. Valuable grass paddocks.

JOHN D. WOOD & CO., 23, Berkeley Square, London, W.1. (J.50,543)

STABLE AND GARAGE BLOCK
TITHE BARN

SELF-CONTAINED WING
LODGE

Walled kitchen garden with heated greenhouses run on a profitable commercial basis.

RICH GRASSLANDS, INCLUDING SOME
USEFUL TIMBER

MODEL T.T. FARMERY AND PIGGERIES

ABOUT 51 ACRES
FOR SALE WITH POSSESSION

MID-SUSSEX

On bus route; 2½ miles from station and 7 miles south-east of Horsham.

MODERNISED HOUSE IN REGENCY STYLE

5 BEST BEDROOMS, WITH BASINS, 3 SECONDARY
BEDROOMS, 2 BATHROOMS, 4 RECEPTION
ROOMS

Central heating; main water and electricity.

STABLING AND GARAGE. EXCELLENT LODGE

ABOUT 12½ ACRES

FOR SALE FREEHOLD £7,000

Agents: JOHN D. WOOD & CO., 23, Berkeley Square, London, W.1. (C.30,339)

By direction of Lady Dill,

WILTSHIRE CENTRE OF THE BEAUFORT HUNT

On the outskirts of a village, with good bus service. Malmesbury 5 miles, Chippenham 6 miles.



DELIGHTFUL COUNTRY HOUSE WITH SMALL FARM. Hall, 3 reception rooms, 6 bedrooms, dressing room, 3 bathrooms, modern kitchen with Aga. Central heating; main electricity and water. Excellent service flat. Modernised cottage. Garage and stabling. Farm buildings including T.T. cowshed. In all about 83 ACRES. WITH VACANT POSSESSION

FOR SALE FREEHOLD

Agents: JOHN D. WOOD & CO., 23, Berkeley Square, London, W.1. (F.62,294)

WANTED TO PURCHASE

FIRST-CLASS COMMERCIAL DAIRY AND MIXED FARM OF 350-500 ACRES

Districts: GLOUCESTERSHIRE, SOMERSET,
WORCESTERSHIRE, HEREFORDSHIRE, SOUTH
SHROPSHIRE.

THE CREDITON — TIVERTON — TAUNTON
AREA MOST FAVOURED

FARMHOUSE WITH 6/8 BEDROOMS.

A SUBSTANTIAL PRICE WILL BE PAID

Particulars please to JOHN D. WOOD & CO.,
quoting reference V.391.

MAYfair 6341
(10 lines)

HAMPSHIRE, WILTSHIRE OR DORSET

A SMALL COUNTRY SEAT

GEORGIAN, QUEEN ANNE OR CAROLEAN

A show place with about 12/15 bedrooms is required, but a larger house would be entertained with a view to demolishing a portion.

100 ACRES in hand, or with let farms up to 2,000-3,000
ACRES

JOHN D. WOOD & CO., 23, Berkeley Square,
London, W.1. (Ref. V.439)

BETWEEN OXTED AND DORKING SMALL PERIOD HOUSE

4 BEDROOMS, 3 RECEPTION, 2 BATHROOMS,
AND PADDOCK.

NOT LESS THAN 4 ACRES

JOHN D. WOOD & CO. (K.554)

23, BERKELEY SQUARE, LONDON, W.1

Telegrams:
"Wood, Agents, Weso, London"

SACKVILLE HOUSE,
40, PICCADILLY, W.1
(Entrance in Sackville Street)

F. L. MERCER & CO.

SPECIALISTS IN THE DISPOSAL OF COUNTRY HOUSES

Telephones :
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THE ACTIVITIES OF MESSRS. F. L. MERCER & CO. ARE CONCERNED EXCLUSIVELY WITH THE DISPOSAL OF

COUNTRY HOUSES

They operate extensively throughout the whole of SOUTHERN ENGLAND from Norfolk in the east to Cornwall in the west

AND ARE PREPARED TO INSPECT SUITABLE PROPERTIES

FREE OF CHARGE

and give expert advice as to present market value and the best means of effecting a satisfactory sale.

THE TREND OF DEMAND TO-DAY IS FOR THE SMALLER AND "MANAGEABLE" TYPE OF RESIDENCE WITH GROUNDS OF REASONABLE SIZE. "PERIOD" HOUSES, OR THOSE OF GOOD MODERN ARCHITECTURE ARE MUCH IN REQUEST, ALSO COMMERCIAL AND "RESIDENTIAL" FARMS, AND THERE IS AN EQUALY READY SALE FOR THE QUITE SMALL "COUNTRY-COTTAGE" TYPE WITH SOME CHARACTER AND MODERN AMENITIES, IN THE LOWER-PRICE GROUP.

The preliminary service referred to is, naturally, only offered to vendors who have a serious intention to sell with Vacant Possession and are prepared to pay the customary scale of commission if a sale is effected.

OWNERS who are interested are invited to send brief particulars (plus photographs, if possible, which will be returned) and MARK THE ENVELOPE OR LETTER: "COUNTRY LIFE," c/o F. L. MERCER & CO., Sackville House, 40, Piccadilly, W.1

A personal call would be even better and welcomed by the Principals.

4, CASTLE STREET,
FARNHAM (Tel. 5274-5)

H. B. BAVERSTOCK & SON

ESTATE OFFICES, GODALMING (Tel. 1722, 5 lines)

20, HIGH STREET,
HASLEMERE (Tel. 1207-8)

FARNHAM, SURREY

Overlooking picturesque valley, with southerly views. Buses to station (Waterloo 1 hour.)

A MOST ATTRACTIVE MODERN HOUSE



Redecorated throughout.
3 bedrooms (19 ft. 6 in. x 13 ft., 17 ft. x 13 ft. and 11 ft. x 10 ft.), half-tiled bathroom, 2 reception rooms (19 ft. 6 in. x 13 ft. and 17 ft. x 13 ft.), staff sitting room or study, loggia, entrance hall, cloakroom, domestic offices. Independent hot water. Main water, gas and electricity. Main drainage. Detached garage. Greenhouse. Picturesque garden approx. $\frac{1}{2}$ ACRE (More land available.)

FREEHOLD £4,750 WITH POSSESSION

Farnham Office.

HASLEMERE, SURREY

Superb views over Sussex Weald. High healthy position facing south, 1 mile of station.

Architect-designed small Country House, built in 1930, and possessing many labour-saving features.

5 bedrooms, 2 dressing rooms (4 fitted basins), bathroom, 3 rec., maid's room.

MAIN SERVICES.

GARAGE.

$\frac{1}{2}$ ACRE

£5,750 FREEHOLD WITH POSSESSION



Haslemere Office.

EMBRACED BY NATIONAL TRUST LAND. South of Guildford, close to unspoiled village, 1 hour Waterloo. ARCHITECT'S HOUSE, of exceptional merit. 3 bedrooms (basins and wardrobe units), half-tiled bathroom, hall and cloaks, drawing room and dining recess, faultless kitchen with built-in refrigerator. Power points. Part central heating. Large garage and workshop. Natural garden about 3 ACRES. Possession. £5,500. Freehold. Godalming Office.

WELLESLEY-SMITH & CO.

SOME 800 INDIVIDUAL PURCHASERS HAVE REGISTERED WITH US SUMS TOTALLING OVER

£5,000,000 FOR PURCHASING

SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED COUNTRY PROPERTIES

chiefly in the counties of

HANTS, SURREY, SUSSEX, OXON, BUCKS,
BERKS AND GLOS.

HOUSES containing 4 and up to 7 bedrooms are mostly in demand, and with from 1 acre and up to 200 acres. Rural positions (or in villages) are required, but not suburban or coastal districts.

VENDORS INCUR NO EXPENSE

with us except liability for the customary commission should the sale be made through our agency.

Communications will be treated in the strictest confidence if so desired, and should be addressed to

WELLESLEY-SMITH & CO., 17, Blagrave Street, Reading, and marked "Personal." Telephones: Reading 54018-9.

BRACKETT & SONS

27-29, HIGH STREET, TUNBRIDGE WELLS. Tel. 1153, 2 lines.

FIRST TIME IN THE MARKET

GROOMBRIDGE, SUSSEX. An architect-designed DETACHED RESIDENCE, together with pleasure and kitchen gardens, paddock, in all about 2 ACRES. 2 reception, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen, etc. PRICE £4,500 FREEHOLD. R.V. £28. Personally inspected and recommended to those seeking a small, easily maintained house in this much sought-after district. Fo. 41838.

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS

OFFERED AT THE VERY LOW FIGURE OF £4,750, as the owner, who is shortly leaving the district, is desirous of effecting an immediate sale. A DETACHED RESIDENCE in a most delightful position in a private park—within easy reach of station—with well-proportioned rooms. Well laid-out garden of about 1 ACRE. Lounge, 2 reception, sun room, 6 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and domestic offices. Garage. Central heating. Immediate inspection advised. Fo. 41887.

2½ MILES TUNBRIDGE STATION

SUBSTANTIALLY BUILT RESIDENCE with about 5½ ACRES, including productive orchard and market garden, from which a good income is derived. 3 reception, study, 5 bedrooms, 2 dressing rooms, bathroom, etc. Useful range of outbuildings. PRICE £6,750 FREEHOLD. Fo. 41755.

CROWBOROUGH HILL

A HOUSE OF EXCEPTIONAL MERIT, newly erected, and with all modern facilities, including central heating. Built to the present owner's requirements, the house contains, on 2 floors, porch, hall/dining room, lovely lounge with fine views, 2 bedrooms (one 20 ft. by 14 ft.), bathroom, kitchen. The principal rooms on the ground floor have polished wood-block flooring. Detached garage. About $\frac{1}{2}$ ACRE of well-stocked garden. Greenhouse. PRICE £4,750 FREEHOLD. Fo. 41666.

BOURNEMOUTH
SOUTHAMPTON

FOX & SONS

BRIGHTON
WORTHING

SOUTH HAMPSHIRE

1 mile from good market town. Close to New Forest.

VERY ATTRACTIVE FARMHOUSE-STYLE PROPERTY



Believed to be about 300 years old. Enjoying open views and protected from development.

4 bedrooms, bathroom, 2 reception rooms, kitchen.

GARAGE

Main electricity, gas and water.

Grounds of about 1½ ACRES

PRICE £4,750 FREEHOLD

FOX & SONS, 44-52, Old Christchurch Road, Bournemouth. Tel. 6300.

BETWEEN SOUTHAMPTON AND HAMBLE RIVER

Occupying a well-screened and secluded site within a few minutes' walk of bus services and about 4 miles Southampton.

GEORGIAN-STYLE RESIDENCE OF CHARACTER



With bow-fronted elevation. In good decorative order.

5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 reception rooms, domestic offices.

Partial central heating.

Main services.

Entrance Lodge.

GARAGE AND STABLING

Grounds of just over 1 ACRE

Held on 999-year lease at low ground rent.

PRICE £4,350 OR NEAR OFFER

Sole Agents: FOX & SONS, 32, London Road, Southampton. Tel. 25155 (4 lines).

AN EXCEPTIONAL PROPERTY AT BUCKLERS HARD
WITH DEEP WATER ANCHORAGE IN THE BEAULIEU RIVER

A most attractive Residence of considerable character, soundly constructed and in excellent decorative order.

COMMANDING MAGNIFICENT UNINTERRUPTED VIEWS OVER THE SOLENT AND RIVER TO THE ISLE OF WIGHT

5 principal bedrooms, dressing room, 3 bathrooms, 3 servants' rooms and bathroom, 4 reception rooms, staff sitting room, modern compact domestic offices. Central heating. Aga cooker. Main electricity and water. Garage for 3 to 4 cars with 2 self-contained maisonettes over. BOATHOUSE and SLIPWAY. Delightful, inexpensively maintained garden and grounds and woodland of about

17 ACRES

PRICE £2,700 FREEHOLD

FOX & SONS, 41, Chapel Road, Worthing.



This magnificent property should have an especial appeal to the YACHTSMAN and has undoubtedly been greatly admired by the many who use the Beaulieu River. Lease 83 years at annual ground rent of 10s. Inspected and recommended by FOX & SONS, 44-52, Old Christchurch Road, Bournemouth. Tel. 6300.

NORTH-WEST SUSSEX
A PARTICULARLY PLEASING MODERN DETACHED TUDOR-STYLE RESIDENCE

In a woodland setting about 3½ miles from Horsham, with excellent train service to London.



Set well back from the road and screened by silver birches and rhododendrons, the property occupies a delightful position.

3 bedrooms, bathroom, galleried lounge-hall, lounge, kitchen/breakfast room.

Main water and electricity. Septic tank drainage.

DOUBLE GARAGE

Natural garden, in all

ABOUT 1½ ACRES

PRICE £5,500 FREEHOLD. VACANT POSSESSION

FOX & SONS, 117 and 118, Western Road, Brighton. Tel. Hove 39201 (7 lines).

MILTON ABBAS

One of Dorset's prettiest model villages. In excellent sporting country only about 5 miles from Blandford.

EXCEPTIONALLY ATTRACTIVE OLD-WORLD RESIDENCE



Possessing modern comforts and exceptionally easy to run.

5 bedrooms, dressing room, bathroom, lounge and hall, drawing room (28 ft. by 14 ft.), dining room and study, cloaks, kitchen with Aga cooker.

Main electricity.

2 GARAGES

Loose box, outbuildings. Beautifully laid out garden, productive vegetable and fruit gardens. The whole extending to an area of about 3½ ACRES

FOR SALE WITH POSSESSION, PRICE £5,000 FREEHOLD

FOX & SONS, 44-52, Old Christchurch Road, Bournemouth. Tel. 6300.

WEST SUSSEX

Delightfully situated in a secluded rural position about 5 miles from popular market town with excellent service of electric trains to London.

AN EXCEPTIONALLY ATTRACTIVE PERIOD FARMHOUSE

Skilfully modernised and in good decorative order.

4 bedrooms, bathroom, 2 reception rooms, study, modern kitchen.

Main electricity and water. Modern drainage.

GARAGE

Useful farm buildings.

ABOUT 8 ACRES (additional land available).



PRICE £6,950 FREEHOLD. VACANT POSSESSION

FOX & SONS, 117 and 118, Western Road, Brighton. Tel. Hove 39201 (7 lines).

BETWEEN WORTHING AND HORSHAM

Delightful rural setting on an omnibus route, 8 miles from the coast at Worthing.

AN IDEAL WEEK-END RETREAT

Picturesque Detached Old-world Cottage. Modernised and in good decorative order.

3 BEDROOMS,

BATHROOM,

LOUNGE AND

KITCHEN

Main electricity.

Company's water.

Small secluded garden with space for GARAGE



PRICE £2,700 FREEHOLD

FOX & SONS, 41, Chapel Road, Worthing.

IN THE FAMOUS TEST VALLEY

Standing on high ground with delightful rural views. Convenient for Salisbury and Winchester.

WELL-PLANNED COUNTRY RESIDENCE

With compact accommodation on two floors only.

6 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms, including 2 suites, staff flat, 4 reception rooms, cloakroom, domestic offices.

1½ MILE OF TEST FISHING.

3 COTTAGES

GARAGES

Attractive grounds with walled kitchen garden and pasture, in all about

23 ACRES



VACANT POSSESSION

FOX & SONS, 32, London Road, Southampton. Tel. 25155 (4 lines).

MIDWAY SOUTHAMPTON—SALISBURY

Situated close to village shops and within a short distance of bus services.

PERIOD FARMHOUSE RESIDENCE

4 BEDROOMS,

BATHROOM,

3 RECEPTION ROOMS,

KITCHEN WITH

AGA COOKER

Main electricity and water.

LARGE BARN

GRANARY

Garden and orchard, in all ABOUT ¾ ACRE



PRICE £3,950 FREEHOLD

FOX & SONS, 32, London Road, Southampton. Tel. 25155 (4 lines).

41, BERKELEY SQUARE,
LONDON, W.1. GRO. 3056

LOFTS & WARNER

Also at OXFORD
and ANDOVER

WILTS—HANTS BORDERS

10 miles from Salisbury.

A QUEEN ANNE HOUSE and 26 ACRES. With Vacant Possession.



FOR SALE

Also a FARM (let) with over 200 ACRES.
Sole Agents: LOFTS & WARNER, as above.Contains:
Hall, 4 reception,
5 principal bedrooms,
2 bathrooms and
staff quarters.Special features are the
Queen Anne staircase, the
fine old fireplaces and
original paneling.

Central heating.

Main water and electricity.
Farm buildings—licensed
for T.T. herd.

Cottage.

Lovely walled garden.

HAMPSHIRE COAST

Easy reach Portsmouth, Fareham and Southampton.

MODERN HOUSE

WITH 3 RECEPTION, 4 BEDROOMS, DRESSING ROOM, BATHROOM

CENTRAL HEATING. ALL SERVICES

GARAGE

1/4 ACRE. £5,250

REASONABLE OFFERS SUBMITTED

Sole Agents: LOFTS & WARNER, as above.

44, ST. JAMES'S
PLACE, S.W.1

JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK

HYDe Park
0911-2-3-4

By direction of Viscount Suirdale.

1 1/2 MILES EXCLUSIVE TEST FISHING

and a useful little 43-acre shoot go with

KIMBRIDGE HOUSE, Nr. ROMSEY, HAMPSHIRE

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION in London on Wednesday, February 16, 1955,
as a whole or in Lots (unless sold previously).

Auctioneers: JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK, 44, St. James's Place, S.W.1.

OXON—BUCKS BORDER

ATTRACTIVE BLACK AND WHITE PERIOD COTTAGE

In old-world market town.

Lounge and dining room (both with inglenook fireplaces), breakfast room, kitchen,
4 bedrooms, bathroom.ALL MAIN SERVICES. PART CENTRAL HEATING. GARAGE
Charming and secluded garden.

PRICE £4,500 FREEHOLD

Inspected and recommended by JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK, London, S.W.1.
(L.R. 26,929)

SOUTH-WESTERN COUNTY

Under 3 hours London

ABOUT 376 ACRES FOR SALE, WITH VACANT POSSESSION

(except 88 acres), including

FINE OLD MANOR HOUSE

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Services. Modern drainage.

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Main services.

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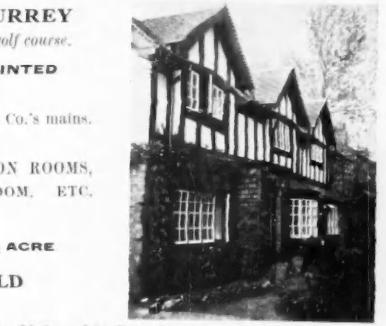
Central heating.

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COUNTRY LIFE

Vol. CXVI No. 3024

DECEMBER 30, 1954



MISS JEAN MARY (JILL) INGLE

Miss Ingle, daughter of the Bishop of Fulham and Mrs. Ingle, of 198, Rivermead Court, S.W.6, is to be married on January 22 to Mr. Christopher Lawrence Penn, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Penn, of 30a, Florence-road, Bournemouth, Hampshire

COUNTRY LIFE

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ESTATE DUTY AND THE LAND

THOUGH a great deal has been written of recent years about the effects of estate duty upon country estates and agriculture, the matter has never, until now, been systematically investigated. A systematic survey was, however, started by the Department of Estate Management of Cambridge University in 1952 and the fruits of much laborious enquiry are now being harvested. Last January that department presented the Chancellor of the Exchequer—who had just announced his intention of dealing with them—with a memorandum on the subject of anomalies arising out of the collection of estate duty. If it had no observable effect on Treasury policy, it did at least make clear the fact that a serious investigation is being made on an objective and non-political basis and that constructive suggestions may well result from a consideration of all the facts and figures. The Cambridge work has made a close study of 57 estates covering in all about 500,000 acres. The estates are representative. Properties varying in size from 1,000 to 100,000 acres have been selected in England and Scotland. Some have suffered estate duty; some have not.

The first Cambridge memorandum on Estate Duty Anomalies pointed out, as not the least of them, the one whereby the Finance Act of 1949 allowed complete exemption from estate duty to a maintenance fund given to the National Trust with a landed estate as a source of income for that estate. If complete exemption from estate duty, it went on, is allowed to a maintenance fund attached to an estate that is also exempt, why should not a maintenance fund attached to an estate enjoying the 45 per cent. agricultural concession be given similar treatment? Where figures, accounts and established policy show a maintenance fund to be essential to sound estate economy and therefore an integral part of the estate as a growing concern, the maintenance fund should receive the same estate duty as the land it serves. Such a consistent policy, the argument continues, would not deprive the Treasury of income in the long run. "A maintenance fund mulcted by heavy estate duty leaves an estate to eat its heart out. The maintenance fund may not be necessary to meet day-to-day repairs. Good estate management requires it, as well run businesses require their reserves, to make good depreciation of a major order in houses, cottages and buildings. Replacement of houses and buildings cannot be financed from unassisted estate revenues if these are adequate only for day-to-day repairs. If the external maintenance fund is emaciated by estate duty, no replacement will be made and the estate will lose condition and value. At the next death the Revenue will suffer, and meanwhile the national economy will have been adversely affected."

The question at once arises: if maintenance

funds are to be exempted from estate duty, what is to be the standard of those maintenance funds both as regards good estate management and as regards the probable effects of estate duty? These are the matters dealt with in the second memorandum, *Reserve Fund and Maintenance Funds*, which has just been circulated. The point of the first part of this memorandum is simply to state the fact that a reserve fund of money or liquid assets supporting an agricultural estate is an essential of sound estate management to which far-seeing landowners are reaching and estate duty is blind. The purpose of the memorandum is not to elaborate this point or to advocate a modification of estate duty law, but simply to give figures based on information derived from the estate duty research enquiry which will show the size of reserve funds required for the thirty agricultural estates surveyed. The complexity of the subject is enormous and the information gained during the course of the survey is unique. A full description of the work will probably appear as part of a general report upon the finances of land ownership. In the meantime the Department of Estate Management at Cambridge will continue to publish their series of booklets on the effects of estate duty.

YEAR'S END

*CHILL, ceaseless rains
Sweeping the weeping grasses;
Trees bare, forlorn, that mourn
For one grown dear who passes;
Seen through black tracery of boughs
Sunsets whose crimson pall endows
The dying year with majesty:
And in the high,
Cold, solitary places,
Great winds that round
The heavens awake and sing:
As when a king dies and for a new king
The trumpets sound.*

MARGARET C. GIBBINS.

FARM PRICE REVIEW

IN the expectation that the Agricultural Wages Boards for Scotland as well as England and Wales will decide to fix higher minimum wage rates for farm-workers in January, the National Farmers' Union has declared its intention of asking for a special price review to take account of the higher labour charges that will fall on the farming industry. The weight of these charges varies with the type of product. In the case of milk production wages account for about 25 per cent. of the total cost. The proportion is much less in arable cropping except in the case of potatoes and sugar-beet. The extra costs falling on livestock products would, in any event, be taken into account at the annual price review, which is held in February. Price guarantees are then fixed for the following 12 months beginning in April, but the arable crop guarantees are decided a year ahead. Farmers already know the guarantees for cereals, potatoes and sugar-beet for the 1955 harvest. It is these particularly that the N.F.U. is anxious to have revised. Repeated wage increases and price increases do no good to agriculture, but if wages in other industries continue to increase and the cost of living stays at the current level, it is impossible to deny farm-workers a share in the higher earnings obtained by workers generally. These rises can be checked by the exercise of good sense on both sides of industry, but they can only be stopped effectively by a decline in the cost of living.

POLLUTION "INDEMNITIES"

THE Anglers' Co-operative Association are, quite rightly, very much perturbed by the action of some of the new River Boards in soliciting the riparian owners of their areas to sign forms of "indemnity" regarding damage by pollution. It is, in the Association's opinion, wholly improper for public boards of this kind to obtain signatures to such documents without proper advice and warning to the signatories as to what rights they are signing away and what liabilities they are taking on their own shoulders. The "form of indemnity" circulated by Boards is an undertaking—in consideration

of a payment to be made by a possible polluter to the River Board to cover the costs of that Board incurred in re-stocking the river with fish—to waive all personal claims in respect of loss, injury or damage to fisheries "sustained or hereafter to become manifest directly as the result of the pollution." The compensation which a polluter is liable to pay to the owner in such a case falls under two heads: first, the cost of re-stocking the water to its original state, and, second, the consequential loss of rent or of the use and enjoyment of the fishing until rehabilitation is complete. Some clubs with a great many members, it should be noted, have been granted their fishing rights for a very small rent, in which case their damages recoverable for loss of enjoyment may be very large indeed. The River Boards, though they can prosecute an alleged polluter under the criminal law, are not the persons damaged and have no legal right to claim compensation for the damage done. According to the A.C.A., anglers have already lost a great deal and polluters have been let off with a small fraction of their full liability as the result of the growing practice of River Boards' putting in claims which they—and the polluters—know to be unenforceable. The River Board concerned has to accept the offer made by the polluter, however inadequate it may be. The A.C.A. are anxious therefore—and reasonably anxious—that riparian owners should be perfectly clear about the position.

THE CRICKETER AND HIS COLLECTION

"IT'S mean, that's what it is," said the chicken to Mr. Toots; "it's mean." His sentiment has been generally echoed as to the behaviour of the taxation authorities in claiming from Bruce Dooland, the eminent bowler of leg-breaks, income-tax on the £48 or so collected from the spectators on his behalf on eleven different occasions in all, when he played in the Lancashire League. Doubtless, we all incline to take a somewhat jaundiced view of those who extract taxes from us, particularly at this time of year, and even the learned judges in the Court of Appeal seem to have entertained some such feeling. The Master of the Rolls came to his conclusion in favour of the Crown "with little satisfaction or enthusiasm" and Lord Justice Birkett agreed "with regret." Nobody would suggest for a moment any criticism of the law laid down. Dooland was entitled under his contract to have such collections made and they formed part of his earnings. What the laymen does feel disposed to criticise is the frame of mind of those making the demand. It seems to their untutored minds an anomalous position that a county cricketer's benefit is not taxable while the League player's much smaller gains can be taxed.

THE NESSMAN AND THE GUGA

THE guga has woken up to find itself famous, and the inhabitants of the Ness district of Lewis have woken up to find themselves forbidden their favourite and historic dish by an Act of Parliament of which they had apparently never heard. For centuries past the hardy Nessmen have yearly visited the rocky isle of Sula Sgeir, where they lead the strenuous life killing and salting the guga, who is better known to us by his English name of solan goose or gannet. Now the Protection of Birds Act, 1954, imposes heavy penalties on anyone killing or eating the bird. This is a case in which there is room for sympathy with both sides. Anything like indiscriminate slaughter of birds is, of course, to be deprecated, but the Nessmen do not indulge in that. A careful census in 1939 showed 3,970 nests; in 1949 there were 6,182, a sufficiently eloquent piece of statistics. There is no doubt good reason for the Act's provisions, but it is hard not to be sorry for the Nessmen, who have lost not only a good dish but one hallowed and made festal for them by long tradition. The Ross County Council wish to have an order made allowing the taking of the guga on Sula Sgeir only after August 31 in each year, but to make this kind of exception in favour of one particular place would surely produce endless jealousies and difficulties. There seems nothing to do but sympathise.



Howard Dickinson

WINTER IN THE YORKSHIRE DALES: LOOKING ACROSS SWALEDALE TO GUNNERSIDE

A COUNTRYMAN'S NOTES

By IAN NIALL

My oldest trout rod has been pensioned off for good. In its time it has bent to more good trout than I may ever put a net under, for it belonged to a keen trout fisherman before I had it and to his grandfather before him. In its youth it was a beautiful rod. Its butt and handle have a graceful line. A day came when it had to be re-whipped and an amateur hand stiffened the action with clumsy whipping and thick varnish. Later on—how many years does a good split cane travel up and down stream before it ages and suffers from strain from putting a fly alternately behind a man's head and before it to the surface of the water?—the rod grew tired and broke at the first joint. It was mended well enough, but the fine balance was gone and the action changed, as it must when two or three inches of middle section have to be cut away. The first shortening put an even greater strain on the rod and soon it was shortened by almost a foot.

* * *

When it came to my hand it was no longer in its prime. It had a wobbly, unsure action that only an old wet-fly rod can have and it was hard to put a dry fly on the water with it, so that one afternoon in midsummer when a trout rose as the fly touched the water the middle section broke and I was left hand-lining and cursing a rod that had served its owner long before I was born. That day the trout rose all round while I worked to extract the ferrule and repair the damage—I had foolishly brought no other rod with me. When I had it mended the trout were no longer feeding. I took the old rod home, put it away and forgot about it. It might have stayed there in the cupboard, but a friend asked me if I had an old rod he might borrow. I warned him about the weakness of the tired rod and sure enough it broke again. And now it is past repair. The three sections stand in a corner of the cupboard. Perhaps I should throw them away, but while they are there they remind me of a day in the shadow of the hills, an evening when a threadbare fly took a fish at every cast and a time when this ancient split cane and an equally aged greenheart were all the rods I possessed. I have a suspicion that I was as much an angler then as ever I may be with the aid of all the best equipment I can lay hand to.

There is a certain amount of skill in almost every game. This applies to clear-water worm fishing and even, I think, to the unworthy business of snatching fish. I know a river where, in late October, the sea-trout cannot be lured by any lure that can be fished. The migrants are plentiful in the water, I am told, and when the time comes those who compete for the privilege of fishing there go home with large numbers of fish. They use a bare hook and draw it upstream until they snag their fish. The snatchers say it is not as easily done as it sounds. I have never tried it, but I am prepared to believe them. I have accidentally foul-hooked a trout from time to time. There is no enjoyment to be had in it.

Some time ago I listened to experts discussing salmon snatching, and when I put in a word about the fly or the minnow I was laughed at. The best way of taking a salmon, I was told, is to fish a triple hook and use a pearl button on the line as a sight. When the button is obscured as the hook is pulled gently up through a pool, the line has only to be jerked out of the water and the salmon is on. Once or twice I have moved a salmon from a pool by clumsy efforts to make it take the biggest sea-trout fly in my box. I am not sure that they would remain long enough to let a novice draw a conspicuous white button within range, but I have no doubt that a skilled poacher might do well at the business. To me the odd thing is that a man capable of such skill could not equally well acquire the ability to catch his salmon by more worthy means.

* * *

A FRIEND asks me what I think about the protection of the little owl. I hardly know what to say. I have nothing against the little owl so far as personal experience goes, but I have never had to look after game chicks, and the question leaves me in the same position as the one about bullfinches. It depends on one's experience. Some years ago a team of bird-watchers devoted their time to recording evidence of the behaviour and feeding habits of the little owl and pronounced in its favour. Yet those who condemned it remained unshaken. As soon as there was an outcry against the little

owl it was pointed out with delight that the bird's diet included large numbers of beetles: the wing cases found in his pellets were positive evidence. After this had made the protectionists settle back the enemies of the little owl announced that he was none the less a murderer because he killed to obtain a supply of beetles. (He is said to leave his victims to putrefy so that he can turn the corpses and feed on the beetles that come to bury them, and that he haunts his larder waiting for the beetles to arrive.) There is no answer to this. It can be proved that the little owl does eat beetles. A few photographs might also convince anyone that he kills game chicks.

* * *

THREE or four times since I first set eyes on the little owl I have seen him rise from a spot where a dead creature lay. One victim was a vole. It was not fresh. It had not been turned over and I could not be sure that the owl had killed it. I did not see any beetles. Perhaps the bird had eaten them. On another occasion the corpse was that of a hedge-sparrow. There was no mark on the bird. It was newly dead. Once I found a dead partridge where the little owl took the air. There was nothing conclusive in any of it, and I was not conscious at the time that people were disputing the true character of the little owl. To put forward a theory of my own it would have been necessary to devote months and even years to watching and recording. I have never had so much time. The little owl is about a great deal by daylight. He likes the twilight and, I suppose, being the kind he is, he is abroad by night too and what he does and how he obtains his food is almost anyone's guess.

Am I in favour of the little owl? Of course I am. I am in favour of the bullfinch, the jackdaw, the rook and the raven. Perhaps my reasons for wanting these birds protected might not stand too well against the practical man's charges against them. I like the little owl because he is an ornament, a little toy of an owl, as beautiful as one could wish to see, and his cry in the dusk reminds me of someone calling to a lost child. All this of course is sentimentalism and I am not ashamed of it. There is nothing wrong with preserving things that please the eye.

THE UNKNOWN NORTH

Written and Illustrated by CAROLINE TUDOR

THE wildest, loneliest landscapes in all Britain are contained in an inverted triangle of countryside with its base along the north coast of Sutherland from Reay to Durness and its apex at Lairg. A hundred years ago Lairg appeared to southerners, at least, as a veritable outpost of civilisation. Even to-day, when the motor-car has brought almost every settlement on the mainland within reach of the casual tourist, this part of Sutherland remains unfrequented except by a few of the more adventurous and by those who have come to know and love its rare qualities and return to it again and again.

It is an apparent paradox that the name Sutherland, the most north-westerly of the Scottish counties, means South Land. It derives from the time when Caithness was a vigorous Viking colony, and Sutherland to the Norse people was the South Land which they over-ran in the 11th century. But the Norse tenure of this land of the Picts was never secure; the Pictish strain in the population remained dominant throughout the later Middle Ages, except, perhaps, in the coastal villages, which alone were accessible by sea to the outside world. There is a tradition that when the Spanish Armada sailed in confusion round the north of Scotland after its crushing defeat by the English fleet one of its ungainly craft foundered on the rocks of Cape Wrath, and that survivors of its crew came ashore and brought fresh blood to the settlements near Durness. It is a tradition handed down in several other parts of Scotland—and one which must be accepted with more than the traditional grain of salt.

In more recent times the Earls and Dukes of Sutherland have proved the patron saints of the people who live in the far north-west. The 4th Duke was especially active in his efforts to bring more of the country round Loch Shin under cultivation. He was far more successful in organising the scattered crofter communities, assuring them of a market for their modest surplus and helping to rehouse them. Early in the 19th century some thousands of crofters and their families were removed without option from their homes in the interior to new settlements on the coast. Their holdings quickly reverted to nature and became part of vast deer forests; yet the results justified the means, for life proved more tolerable near the sea in a sunnier and drier climate. Crops were more dependable, grass more plentiful and fishing



HARVEST TIME IN A SUTHERLAND CROFTING COMMUNITY. Looking from Farr towards Bettyhill, with Ben Loyal and Ben Hope in the background

became an important addition to the typical crofter's activities.

In spite of all that has been done to improve conditions of life (including great assistance from the Scottish agricultural authorities during the second World War) the crofters are growing fewer. Greater prosperity has brought to some the opportunity to take over holdings in a more genial climate farther south. For compensation, a number of Orkney Islanders, themselves more prosperous than ever before, have saved enough to move south across the Pentland Firth. So the drift from north to south continues, and it seems as though nothing will stop it. There is, too, a drift from country to town, from the crofter settlements to the eldorados of Thurso and Wick. The sad fact must be faced that the

coastal strip from Reay to Durness may be as deserted in the course of a few generations as the hinterland is to-day.

That is a conclusion supported by the recent report of a commission which has examined anew the problems of crofters during the last few years. The basis of the report is that the maintenance of the crofting communities is desirable because they embody a free and independent way of life. "Those who fail to recognise that this is so will never begin to understand the Highland situation or make helpful proposals for its improvement." Therein lies the dual danger—on the one hand extinction, on the other relegation to something akin to a museum curiosity.

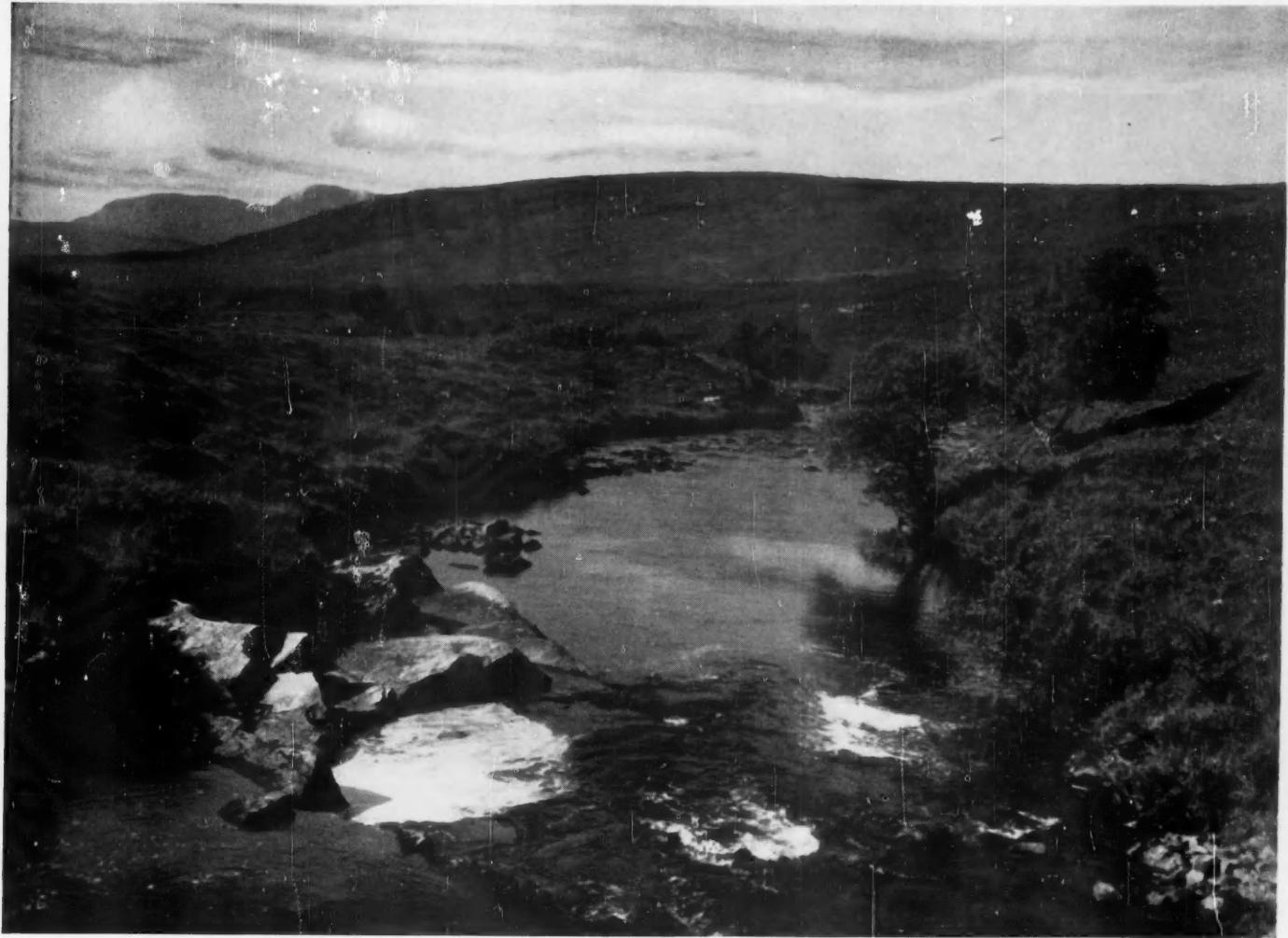
For the present, at least, here is a wonderful country to explore, strangely beautiful in its glimpses of wild nature and taking added interest from the still fiercely independent and distinctive people who earn a living from the unwilling soil. In practice a car is essential for the visitor, if more than a limited area is to be seen. There are no railways; the motor coaches do not (mercifully) penetrate west of Thurso; distances between possible places at which to spend the night are too great for a walking-tour unless a tent is carried; the only form of public transport in most of the area is a daily mail-bus which links with the nearest railhead, either Thurso or Lairg. Some of the roads are rough (especially between Tongue and Durness), most are single tracks with passing-places, but none is difficult for the experienced driver.

The most magnificent drive is from Thurso right round the coast to Rhiconich and Laxford Bridge, and thence south by the Kylesku ferry to Ullapool or down the valley of Loch Shin to Lairg.

The first few miles to the west of Thurso are dull, but, once Reay is passed and the county boundary of Sutherland crossed, the scenery improves and grows finer the farther west one goes by Strathy and Armadale to Bettyhill. There are distant glimpses of the coast and several tracks which lead to the edge of the beautifully shaped and coloured cliffs. Soon beyond the broken plateau the upstanding peaks of Ben Loyal and Ben Hope can be seen in the far distance, standing like sentinels guarding the approaches to the wild interior. There are reminders of Scotland's Ice Ages in the vast solitary boulders carried down by glaciers from



A PROSPEROUS CROFTER WITH HIS FLOCK



A SUTHERLAND STREAM. The stunted trees and streaky sky are typical of the landscape

the mountain summits and deposited thus haphazardly on the moorlands. But the greatest beauty is always that of the varied coastline, with its cliffs which vary from the dull granite of Farr to the soft grey limestone at Durness and the gneiss of Cape Wrath, where intrusive veins of a mineral called pegmatite give the illusion of pinkish rocks which glow dark red in the setting sun. When, for contrast, the gleaming white sands of the western shore of Loch Eriboll are added to the list, there is no country in Europe which can show such varied and beautiful coastal scenery in so small a space.

The crofter population is certainly decreasing, but it is clearly more stable in the north coast settlements than in the corresponding villages facing the North Sea. I remember the shock of my first visit to one of these after the war. Many of its crofts were deserted, their thatched roofs rotting, their walls crumbling or torn apart as though a heavy bomb had exploded in their midst. A few bright new homes served only to underline the tragedy of a place whose population had shrunk so drastically in a single generation.

In the beautifully situated settlements of the far north it is a very different story. Life for the crofters' community may still be hard—it could not well be otherwise in a land so poorly endowed by nature—but there are few deserted crofts and still fewer which are ill cared for or neglected. In Farr and Armadale and in the smaller settlements farther west the typical unit is a two-roomed single-storeyed home, often thatched, generally whitewashed or gaily colour-washed, a modest enough home for the crofter and his family, but one which shows, by its spick and span appearance inside as well as out, that it is home and as such prized in its owners' eyes.

A few of the newer crofts have tiled roofs; they are rather like youthful emigrés in a company of elders, doing all that they can to efface themselves, learning by experience that their



CROFTERS' HOMES NEAR DURNESS. A family's pile of peat lies beside the road



LOCH MORE, WITH THE REAY DEER FOREST ON THE FAR SIDE

youth wins scant respect and eager to be absorbed into the traditional pattern. Certainly the pattern of life clings consistently to tradition, whatever the changes in conditions or environment. Hard by the crofter's home one can generally see his domestic stock—perhaps a single cow tethered to a stake, a few chickens, here and there a pig. These animals share his life in a way that can be only half understood by visitors from more ample parts of Britain. In the evening the crofter will often take his cow for a walk along the road, leading it by a length of rope tied loosely round its neck, in search of patches of more succulent grass by the wayside. On his leisurely progress he will pass the time of day with any of his neighbours who happen to pass or stop for a long, quiet earnest talk about his new litter of pigs or about the prospects of the hay harvest.

Harvest time does indeed mean the gathering in of the grass crop, the crofter's sole insurance that he will be able to feed his stock through the long dark winter months. Here and there a brave field of oats defies the climate, but for the most part the ploughed land yields grass—its harvest postponed until August in the best of years, and then mostly gathered in by hand. To own a tractor (even an ancient battered version of pre-war vintage) is a sign of unusual opulence; the horse is still the farmers' chief course of power, serving every conceivable purpose from drawing the plough to carrying home the black rectangles of peat which the crofter cuts in the nearest bog for his winter firing, and which he stacks in a neat conical mound close to his front door.

So the crofter lives off his plot of land with milk from his cow or goats, vegetables from his garden and meat from the rabbits he traps and the fish he catches. His wife still commonly bakes the bread for the family and makes the clothes. Whatever capital he owns is invested in his flock of sheep, for the more prosperous crofters in this area are one and all shepherds (in some districts cattle take the place of sheep), tending their small flocks wherever they roam in search of pasture in the dead land, keeping them together and watching over them with jealous care. Yet that too is a misnomer, for it is not the shepherd who guards his flocks (though he is always there watching from the nearest hillock) but his dog, the most prosperous-looking member of every household, with glossy coat and alert mien. Between dog and shepherd there is an uncanny bond of sympathy so that the dog carries out his master's instructions without hesitation.

It is fifty miles from the crofters' settlements about Bettyhill, overlooking the fantastic

sand-dunes at the Naver's mouth, to Durness at the approach to Cape Wrath where the coastline turns south towards the vastly different grandeur of Scotland's west coast. In all the fifty miles along the coast road the only village is Tongue, set high on a cliff which hangs over the narrow silver strip of the Kyle of Tongue.

After that there is a rough single track of a road on which it is unusual to meet another vehicle more than once in an hour, and that only at the height of the touring season. Two lodges are the only habitation on the way, one where the road dives steeply to the banks of Loch Hope, the other under the cliff which hems in the deep waters of Loch Eriboll. Inland the countryside is a treeless expanse of exposed rock and peat-bog which has never yielded an iota to the would-be cultivator and never will. Here in brief is primæval nature, untouched by the hand of man, vast, intractable, of a beauty that depends only on line and mass, the very antithesis of the man-made garden that a thousand years of cultivation have fashioned in the fertile lowlands.

Two places of special interest stand out in the Lands of Reay about Durness (so called because this part of the north-west was the property of Lord Reay, head of the Clan MacKay, before it passed by purchase to the Dukes of Sutherland). One is the Cave of Smoo, the other Cape Wrath, the most north-westerly point of the mainland. Sir Walter Scott was one of the first literary travellers to admire the former. It is of the same family as the caverns of the Mendip Hills and of the Pennines—a three-chambered cave, eroded by water in a stratum of relatively soft limestone. Only the first chamber can be reached on foot from the beach; a deep pool, which must be crossed by boat, guards the second and third. As for Cape Wrath, apart from the strange beauty of its rose-coloured rocks to which I have already referred, it is incomparably more dramatic as a land's end than the quiet coast of John o' Groats with which so many rest content. It is a goal well worth the trouble of crossing the Kyle of Durness by ferry and driving—unless the car ferry is suspended—over twelve miles of desolate moor.

And so one turns south to Rhiconich and Laxford Bridge, where there is a choice of ways. Due south the road leads to the Kylesku Ferry and the better known landscapes towards Lochinver and Ullapool. South-eastward one of the most exciting of roads leads through typical highland scenery to Lairg, and this way back to more populous places is the one which gives the greater feeling of Sutherland's vast extent and unique scenery. It leads between the slopes of Arkle's massive cone and Ben Stack's rugged screes, and under the treeless skylines of the Reay Deer Forest. It runs past a succession of lovely lochs, the last and longest of which is Loch Shin.

Above all the road to Lairg gives a vivid impression of achievement against great odds and a real hope for the future of this unknown north. That is where it passes through the Reay estate, to which the late Duke of Westminster gave years of intense effort and personal support. To an extent his dream came true; for miles the frowning hillsides are planted with sturdy trees, well started on the way to healthy growth; the boglands of the strath-floor are criss-crossed with drainage canals, and cattle graze where formerly only rank inedible grass could grow. Modern, well built houses are there too, the homes of the families whose work is needed to maintain the new forests. Here, and here alone, the handiwork of man is superimposed on nature's pattern. It may well point to the shape of things to come, and, perhaps, ultimately, to a less precarious livelihood for a new race of highland crofter.



SAND-DUNES NEAR THE MOUTH OF THE RIVER NAVER

CHOW FROM CHINA

By S. M. LAMPSON

CHINA has given the western world two outstanding breeds of dog—the pekingese and the chow. Both breeds—one the valued pet of the Imperial court and the other the “wonder” of the streets—are characterised by the same Oriental inscrutability and an independent, condescending air that makes it clear that they do not obey because they must, but because it suits their convenience.

Anyone who wants his dog to be friendly with all and sundry should avoid acquiring a chow, for he is a dog who accepts one person and his family as his property and, within that circle, he is affectionate, intelligent and patient. With his own friends a chow will, at times, forget his dignity and make a fool of himself, but not if strangers are present. Like all Chinese, a chow is both fond of and patient with children; with other dogs he continues his policy of keeping himself to himself and seldom attacks except under provocation, but when he does fight he generally wins. As a house dog and guard the chow is wise and reliable, barking only when necessary, and, although he may habitually ignore visitors to the house, he appears to have an instinctive recognition of undesirable strangers. Once one has been paid the compliment of being accepted as the friend of a chow one is never forgotten.

The chow has been known in China for many thousands of years, and there are representations of dogs of the type in Chinese ceramics and pictures; but such dogs were never highly valued or particularly carefully bred, since the puppies and young dogs were mainly required for food, and in the northern districts they were used as guards and draft dogs and for hunting. How the breed arrived in China one does not know, but it belongs to the spitz family and is therefore akin to the husky, the samoyed, the elkhound, the keeshond and the pomeranian, all of whom are characterised by upstanding ears and tightly curled tails and by being one-man dogs.

Physically the chow has two curious attributes. First, it is the only breed of dog that has a blue or black tongue and inside to its mouth, a peculiarity shared only with the polar bear. A chow with a patchy, or blotting-paper, tongue undoubtedly has a bend sinister on its pedigree, and, if any other type of dog has this peculiarity, it can undoubtedly claim to have a chow among its ancestors. Second, the typical, stilted walk of the chow comes from its having a straight stifle and a straight hock; in fact, a double-jointed hock is often to be found and is much admired.

The year 1780 is the one in which we first hear of chows in England. Two were described by Gilbert White in his *Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne*, although the name chow was not applied to them or to successive arrivals from China until many years later. The Selborne pair apparently did not breed, nor did the brace of “Chinese edible dogs” that went to America in 1833. Nothing much more is heard of these Oriental curiosities until 1879, although Queen Victoria and the London Zoological Gardens both had specimens which were regarded as interesting examples of eastern fauna. In 1880 a bitch called Chinese Puzzle appeared in a class for foreign dogs at the Crystal Palace dog show and gained a silver medal. She seems never to have been heard of again.

In 1887 the real history of the chow chow breed in Europe began. The Lord Lonsdale of the time gave a dog to Lady Harlech, who passed it on to the Dowager Lady Huntly; she acquired a bitch as well, and from the pair bred Peridot II, who was exhibited. Lady Huntly's daughter-in-law, Lady Granville Gordon, became enamoured of the breed, which by that time was attracting attention, and was largely responsible for its recognition by the Kennel Club in 1894 under the title of chow chow, which is still its correct style. Exactly why the name was chosen one can only guess: chow chow is a Chinese term for a mixture and commonly accepted by Europeans to mean food.

With the breed acknowledged by the Kennel Club, several dogs imported, and increasing public interest, the chow chow made rapid progress. A club was formed, a specialist show held and a year later challenge certificates were granted: the first pair was won by Blue Blood, a dog owned by Lady Granville Gordon, and the leading bitch was Lapwood Blue Bell. As the names indicate, blue was then a favourite colour, and it was several years before shaded and unbroken reds became equally or even more popular than the blue or black dogs.

A point of interest arises in respect of these early supporters of the chow chow breed. The Dowager Lady Huntly's interest was continued by her daughter-in-law, Lady Granville Gordon. Her daughter Miss Armyne Gordon, later Lady Faudel-Phillips, housed innumerable champions at her Amwell Kennels; the greatest of these was the black dog Ch. Pusa of Amwell, born in 1913, whose influence at stud was enormous, and whose children and grandchildren made

to produce a line of outstanding chows until the death of its owner in 1944. The influence of Ch. Pusa of Amwell can be traced here, since he was the great-grandfather of Ch. Akbar, who sired Brilliantine and Brilliantina. In 1936 Ch. Choonam Hung Kwong added an illuminated page to chow history by being the only member of his breed to gain the most coveted of all the canine world's awards—best in show at Cruft's.

The last war cut across all dog breeding, and since breeding was resumed the chow chow has never reached the same level of popularity as before. Chow chow lovers are faithful to their favourites, but they seem to lack the art of persuading others that, despite his scowling visage and preference for keeping himself to himself, the chow is a gentleman of intense loyalty, great integrity and a high degree of intelligence; one who never looks for trouble, but who is well able to deal with it when it comes his way.



CHOW CHOW CH. CHOONAM HUNG KWONG, BEST IN SHOW AT CRUFT'S IN 1936

chow history for many years. The death of Lady Faudel-Phillips was a great loss to all who love chows, but her interest remains alive in her daughters, of whom one retains the famous Amwell suffix and the other is president of one of the leading specialist clubs.

In the hey-day of chow chow popularity the Americans were as interested as we in this country, and at one time so many of our best dogs crossed the Atlantic that our own stock was endangered. The story of Ch. Choonam Brilliantine proves that a skilful novice can breed stock of the highest quality. Mrs. Mannoch was a newcomer to chow breeding when her Brilliantine became the sensation of Crufts in 1925 and completed his championship in a short space of time; he was later sold to America for £2,000, and, continuing his great career in the ownership of Mrs. Earl Hoover, proved his worth by siring fifteen champions. Brilliantine's litter sister, Ch. Choonam Brilliantina, remained in this country to become one of the cornerstones of the Choonam kennel, which continued

In appearance the chow is extremely handsome—active, compact, short coupled and clothed in an abundant, dense, stand-off coat which may be black, red, blue, fawn, cream or white, sometimes of a solid colour and sometimes with a lighter tone on the underpart of the tightly curled tail and back of the thighs. A chow's head must have a flat, broad skull with a muzzle of moderate length, broad from the eyes to the point of the black nose, and the eyes must be small, dark and almond-shaped. The tiny, thick, slightly rounded ears are carried erect, but well forward over the eyes, lending the dog the scowling expression so greatly desired and typical of the breed.

All puppies have charm, but infant chows are, perhaps, the most enchanting of all canine babies.

Since the chow chow is only a moderate-sized dog, and food is now easier to obtain, it is to be hoped that he will soon make new friends and regain the high place he held in public favour not so many years ago.

SILVER NUTMEG-GRATERS

THE fashion for highly spiced foods was widely adopted from early Elizabethan days by all who could afford the indulgence. Every small-town general dealer carried a considerable stock of pungent spices, including gilded nutmegs, which were popular gifts. In the inventory of James Backhouse, of Lonsdale, made in 1578, nutmegs were valued at eleven shillings a pound. Grated nutmeg was in considerable demand for flavouring ale, as it was thought to purify the breath. In 1380 Chaucer referred to "Notemuge to put in ale."

Pocket nutmeg-graters do not appear to have been carried until the last quarter of the 17th century, when the powdered spice, then renowned for its stimulant and carminative properties, was sprinkled over a wide variety of foods and drinks. In 1695 Congreve in *Love for Love* spoke of "a little nutmeg grater which she had forgot in the caudlecup." Hot negus, mulled wine and custards were rarely taken

nutmeg and grater. In consequence it became the fashion for the customer to carry his own nutmeg in a container fitted with a grater upon which it could be ground.

Nutmeg-graters were set chiefly in ivory, bone and hard wood, but the fashionable preferred silver. These were designed in such a way that flat plate could be used throughout with no more labour than cutting or bending, costly hand-raising being rare except in early egg-shaped examples. Joints were hard soldered and so carefully burnished as to be invisible on the outside, and almost so within. Some egg-shaped examples were hollowed by spinning, an inexpensive process competing with Sheffield plate.

The hall-marking of "very small nutmeg graters" was exempt under an Act of Parliament (12 George II (6)), until repealed in 1790. The result was that from 1739 to 1790 silver nutmeg-graters were made abnormally small to

By G. BERNARD HUGHES

where otherwise they could not have been struck.

The rasping surface of the grater consisted of a series of small protuberances roughly broken by punched holes. Until 1739 it was of silver hammered until springy and tough: with freedom from hall-marking sheet-metal graters came into use. These were usually framed in silver to lie snugly within the body of the box, resting upon a ledge formed by a narrow ribbon of silver encircling the interior rim. Hammered sheet steel was used until the 1770s, when rolled steel came into use. This was tinned to prevent rust, but friction of the nutmeg quickly removed this: French plating with silver leaf was even less permanent.

From the early 1790s the rolled steel used for graters was annealed in a bed of hot charcoal about two feet deep, the lower part of the fire being in a state of incandescence and the upper layer at a lower temperature. This produced



EXAMPLES OF NUTMEG-GRATERS, WHICH WERE USED FROM THE END OF THE 17th CENTURY TO THE BEGINNING OF THE 19th, WHEN NUTMEG AND OTHER SPICES WERE GREATLY FAVOURED FOR FLAVOURING FOOD AND DRINK.

Those in the top row date from the reign of Queen Anne; the remainder are later

without a sprinkle of nutmeg, and until the early 19th century it continued to flavour ale. Warton in 1770 refers to "an old October [ale], nutmeg'd nice."

The heyday for nutmeg-graters, however, was during the toddy-drinking period between about 1780 and 1830: few existing specimens date from earlier than this. Toddy was a new drink in the early 1780s, being then defined as "hot grog with the addition of sugar, lemon juice, and grated nutmeg." Grog was a mixture of rum and water, half and half being the general rule. So potent was the flavour of the nutmeg when brought out by the hot liquid that little was required. To-day it is not uncommon to find a Georgian nutmeg-grater containing an old nutmeg still highly scented. So definitely was the nutmeg associated with toddy that some Regency nutmeg-graters were shaped in the form of rum kegs.

The keepers of taverns and punch houses seldom provided a sprinkling of nutmeg with their drinks, and were chary of making nutmegs available to their customers lest they lose both

escape the obligation of presenting for assay. Those made between 1784 and 1790 also avoided the duty tax of sixpence an ounce. In rare instances silversmiths might send nutmeg-graters to Goldsmiths' Hall for hall-marking: such marks struck between 1784 and 1790 do not include the monarch's head duty mark. Otherwise the only proof that a nutmeg-grater was of sterling silver was the presence of the maker's mark as registered at Goldsmiths' Hall.

From 1790 the London Assay Office struck the complete hall-mark of five punches within the lid; on the lower lid appeared the lion and date letter, while only the lion appeared on the body. The Birmingham Assay Office struck part of the mark on each lid, so that unscrupulous traders could not replace either with an inferior, unmarked replica. On the upper lid appeared the anchor, date letter and maker's mark; on the lower lid the duty mark, lion and often the maker's mark. The body was not marked. The silver cases were presented for hall-marking before insertion of their steel graters: hall-marks are often noted in positions

conditions suitable for the development of oxide colours. After removal from the fire the steel was hardened by plunging into raw whale oil and then vigorously rubbed with an oil-soaked pad of beaver felt. This process surfaced the steel with a hard blue film capable of resisting the friction of the nutmeg. Signs of scaling are by now often visible, but numerous graters of the late 1790s are still in excellent condition.

In early steel graters the jagged-edged piercings were irregularly spaced and appear to have been forced into the metal by means of a sharp punch. Later the perforations were made by raising small hemispheres with a fly-press in such a way as to leave a perfectly flat ground: each hemisphere was then broken by a tool with a jagged edge.

Silversmiths appear to have bought graters by the sheet and cut it to fit as required, for many an oval grater shows severed perforations around the edge. In some instances the silversmith has obviously been his own piercer, for the marks of a scribe are visible on the back of the grater. In the finer pieces the perforations



A GROUP OF LATE-18th-CENTURY NUTMEG-GRATERS, ILLUSTRATING THE VARIETY OF SHAPES WHICH THE SILVERSMITHS EMPLOYED

were hand-pierced in the form of concentric circles.

The earliest silver nutmeg-graters so far noted were cylindrical, measuring $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches to $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches long by $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch to 1 inch in diameter. This design had a slip-on cover and contained a loose tubular grater made from a piece of silver plate invisibly seamed vertically. The lid was constructed from two pieces of silver, the circular end-piece extending a little beyond the body: the base was similarly extended. In some examples the cylinder was partitioned with a convex disc to form a separate container for the nutmeg, in which case slip-on covers were fitted at both ends.

The cylinder was encircled with raised ribbing below the cover to which it formed a stop, thus protecting the rim, and matching ribbing appeared at a similar distance from the base. The inner sides of the ribbing were ornamented with bands of engraving; alternatively, a band of simple engraving encircled the centre. The flat of the cover was engraved with a simple motif such as a star or tulip. Those made between 1697 and 1720 are of high standard silver, with the hall-mark encircling the rim and concealed by the slip-on cover.

The tubular graters contained in these cases were made from silver plate, seamed vertically and funnelled at each end so as to contain the nutmeg and also to prevent it from rattling while being carried in the pocket. As the graters were not hall-marked the metal probably contained more than the legal percentage of copper in its composition, thus producing rough edges capable of withstanding continual rasping.

Box nutmeg-graters preceded these and were probably small heart-shaped boxes such as are recorded as having been assayed from time to time during the late 17th century. Nutmeg-graters fitted into heart-shaped silver boxes measuring about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in each direction have been noted with hall-marks of the 1730s. From the 1750s heart-shaped nutmeg-graters were made with top and bottom lids, each working on a projecting three-lug hinge. One lid opened to reveal a permanently fixed steel grater: the other gave access to the nutmeg.

Small egg-shaped nutmeg-graters were made from the 1770s to 1790, when they tended to become larger owing to the obligation to present them for assay. Such a design unscrewed into two sections, the lower usually a little less than twice the depth of the upper section. A circular grater in a silver frame fitted into the lower rim by pressure. Surfaces were usually perfectly smooth, except for ribbing around the screw-joint. The pre-1790 series was struck with a maker's mark inside the apex of each section. Some were hand-raised from the plate and the rims thickened to take the threads for screwing together. Others, surprisingly for this period, were spun.

lower to the nutmeg and also to the powdered nutmeg. Most of these bear the marks of the Birmingham silversmiths Thomas Willmore and Samuel Pemberton. The hall-mark is struck in full on each lid and omitted from the body. The majority bear date letters from 1795 to 1800 and might be undecorated or ornamented with bright cutting.

A series of somewhat larger square and rectangular nutmeg-graters had a top lid opening on a hinge to reveal a fixed grater, and the base lid opening sideways to give access to the box. This lid extended a little beyond the box at the end opposite the hinge, so as to facilitate opening. The hinges are virtually invisible when the box is closed, the lower one being so designed that the lid opens to a right angle and no more.

Urn-shaped nutmeg-graters, oval on plan and split down the sides from rim to square or round foot, where they hinged, date from about 1780. The oval lid was domed with a moulded rim and a ball finial. Lid and foot had three-lug hinges. The sides were shaped from the plate; the foot and stem cast; the lid hand-raised. When the lid was opened a steel grater came into view, shaped to follow the outline of the urn.

In the early 19th century appeared the round or oval cylinder with a long, narrow steel grater set in one side of the tube and covered with a silver lid, to one end of which was hinged a cover fitting over the cylinder top, and hinged at the base. In some instances a third hinge permitted the base to be opened also, so that the nutmeg could be more easily grated with base, lid and cover lying flat. Most of these split cylinders were plain surfaced, but late examples might be engine turned.

Large table nutmeg-graters in the shape of a half-cylinder, with a silver frame including a semicircular handle, were accompaniments of the toddy-bowl from about 1800: these enabled the nutmeg to be powdered more speedily. They resemble a kitchen grater four inches to ten inches in length with top and bottom ends covered, the lower being hinged to permit removal of the ground nutmeg. The steel grater perforations formed a pattern of concentric circles and might be concealed beneath a sliding cover of silver.

Although numerous nutmeg-graters are monogrammed or initialled, few are found with crests, which suggests that those who drank more costly wines did not find it necessary to add the nutmeg's aromatic flavour.



NUTMEG-GRATERS OF THE LATE 18th AND EARLY 19th CENTURIES. THEY INCLUDE (top, middle) A TABLE GRATER AND (bottom, right) A BARREL-SHAPED GRATER BY SAMUEL MASSEY, OF LONDON

ENGLAND'S SMALLEST PARISH?

By GEOFFREY GRIGSON

HAVING grown up in a parish, conscious of all its bounds, I find that I tend to collect parishes in my exploration of England and Wales. I like to think of the peculiarities, from a chambered barrow to a folly, from a plant to a fossil bed, as being in a parish. I like to get some inkling of the parochial character and relationships. But if I ask which of all my parishes I prefer, elements of rock and water and loneliness help to make the selection.

In Yorkshire Chapel-le-Dale comes insistently into mind, less for its church than for its caves and pots and clints, its appearing and disappearing streams, its bird's-eye primroses and wild lilies-of-the-valley, its lean, dry and quiet inhabitants. In Wales, or in the disputed county of Monmouthshire, I find the red and green parish of Cwmyoy unforgettable. Redstarts flick into memory from the dark sycamore around each farm-house, sheep tread daintily by their own track across the precipices of red sandstone, ancient landslips have tilted and twisted the church, and the green of the

woods, and the startling precipices of limestone. They do not realise that the loop embraces a parish. They do not know that this narrow-necked inverted bowl of a spoon pushed out below them, half wood, half field and meadow, surmounted by a farm-house and a cottage, adding up to little more than 200 acres, has been an entity upon its own since the Middle Ages or the Dark Ages.

Here is a parish which can be seen at a glance, without going up in an aeroplane. The Wyndcliff offers a view, at least, of some eighty per cent. of all of Lancast, which must be among the smallest of the parishes of England. But from the Wyndcliff you cannot see the church of St. Cewydd, and latterly of St. James, which is down on the far side of the peninsula, on the far side of the parish, by the river. Best to go back from Wyndcliff into England, entering Lancast from the road which wiggles from the terminus of Aust Ferry towards Tidenham Chase, St. Briavels and the Forest of Dean.

A turning tilts up to the left, catching you out if you are slow with the gears. Then a lane

is steep, dirty in wet weather, confused and brambly. At last Tidenham Crags heave into sight on one side of the river, Piercefield Woods rising on the other to something so mundane (but invisible) as Chepstow Race-course. Among the elms and above the bracken and the brambles appears the reddish gable-end of the church, pierced by a window of two lights, a small elder tree growing out of the apex.

The ruination of Lancast Church seems to me a disgrace. A small parish, a miniature parish, and next to no parishioners. Very well. A parish, all the same, of bold and exquisite scenery, a church enshrining a border tradition of twelve centuries. Seeing that the walls of Lancast Church have been spared for so long, respect for the past and the future ought not to be so dead as to allow them to fall at last—which they might do, at any time. A south doorway (the arching stones of the doorway have recently tumbled) leads into a nave about twelve feet by seventeen. Eighteenth-century gravestones lie on the floor among dog's mercury and wild strawberries. There is no roof.



THE RIVERS SEVERN (in the distance) AND WYE FROM THE WYNDCLIFF, NEAR CHEPSTOW, MONMOUTHSHIRE. The loop of the Wye encloses the Gloucestershire parish of Lancast, the area of which is only 218 acres

high meadows is brilliant. Cornwall gives me the green, wet and rocky parish of Lanest, hidden away and enclosing a holy well, a delightfully kept vicarage garden and a church without swagger, in which a tablet commemorates the one celebrity of the parish, John Couch Adams, the mathematician who predicted the existence of Neptune.

In Wiltshire my fancy is always Slaughterford, for cliff and quarry, trout stream and unexpected plants. In Somerset my fancy sticks to Culbone, the small church in the black cleft, the farm-house where an afflicted Coleridge dreamt *Kubla Khan*, and the shingle below the woods and the cliffs rattling in the push and fall of a lazy sea.

In Gloucestershire—but here is the point. In this county, upon its western limit, I have lately explored the parish of all parishes. Do you know Lancast? You may have looked at it, since Lancast is lapped in the uttermost scenery of the Wye—lapped and lost. Those who cross to the Monmouthshire side of the Wye look down from the Wyndcliff and survey the great loop of the river, the suspended blackness

runs beyond a gate through wood and grass-land to the farm; and you will have passed, without realising it, through Offa's Dyke, the long boundary which King Offa set between Welshman and Anglo-Saxon nearly twelve hundred years ago.

The farm-house surveys its parish domain from two hundred feet above the loop of the Wye. Its limestone meadows give a rich feed to more than thirty cows, its limestone soil crops heavily with potatoes. A hundred and eighty years ago three families made the population of Lancast. Three families—ten persons—are the total to-day, two families in the farmhouse, one in the cottage. Before Lancast came to be held with one of its larger neighbours, there must, I suppose, have been a rectory. There existed the rectors, that is certain, a long line of rectors from the Middle Ages, resident or evading residence, quarrelling now and again with their few parishioners over the tithe of salmon taken around the loop in the two fish weirs of Lancast.

Past a great oak tree under which services are sometimes held, the way down to the church

Oak saplings and hazels grow out of the chancel arch. In the chancel, which is little larger than the nave, aumbry and piscina and the single light of an east window remain. A few pounds would make the ruin sturdy enough to last many more years. Next year, the year after, the year after that, it will be too late.

I do not know a church in a more extraordinary position. St. Winnow Church, in Cornwall, stands by the tidal waters of the Fowey, which turn below the church into a wide lake when the tide is full. But the Fowey valley is altogether without this rocky, wooded drama. Here the slope drops from the church to the Wye. Beneath the yew and oak and birch and beech of Piercefield Woods, on the other bank, the brown waters reveal, then hide St. Peter's Thumb, a rock blackened with seaweed which was dangerous in the days of navigation by hoy and barge; they ebb and then return past the twelve projections of limestone called the Twelve Apostles, they slide and they curl around the point into Longhope Reach under the gleaming cliffs. If these waters are muddy, still they shine and reflect.

Gravely accented by the ruined church, the scene affects one as remote and genial altogether until two things occur—until they blast in the high quarry of the cliffs at the end of the day's work, and until the explorer becomes all too harassed and hunted by an autumnal horde of mosquitoes. Between church and water you may notice three unexpected acacias and the ruin of a Lombardy poplar. These survive, I think, from the "elegant box, called the Marine Cottage, built upon the site of Llancast Fish House by the late Samuel Stephens, Esq.," to quote a guide-book of 1840. The elegant box and the mosquitoes cannot have gone well together, but there are snakes in every paradise. The quarry? That may be regretted. Yet to be honest the quarries here have not altogether ruined the cliffs, which in the summer are curtained with wallflowers and bloody cranesbill.

Between the remnants of Marine Cottage (which became the blacksmith's shop of one of the quarries) and the remnants of the church I found another plant. Curling over the brambles were the huge leaves of elecampane, possibly, even probably, surviving from a much older time. I chewed a slice of the aromatic root; it agreed well with the aroma of the ancientness and delightfulness of Llancast.

Ancientness is the word. Llancast in its old form was Landcaud and Lann Cevid, actually meaning the *lan* or church of St. Cewydd, who was a holy Welshman of the Dark Ages; he has dedications elsewhere beyond the Wye. It has been said that the western portion of the church was the old Celtic oratory. That may be a yarn. I see no evidence for it in the stones. Yet there is no reason to doubt that St. Cewydd may have lived here in retreat for a while, exactly as St. Coulban from Wales may have had his cell in the cleft of Culbone, or as St. Samson may have retreated for a time to that desert island in the Scillies which is still called by his name. In the Middle Ages St. Cewydd here was replaced by St. James; but only when Llancast had become no longer a Welsh enclave on the English side of the Wye.



THE RUINS OF LLANCAST CHURCH. "I do not know a church in a more extraordinary position"

The theory goes that Llancast was leased to Welsh sailors. In the 10th century Welsh sailors certainly leased a harbour on the Beachley peninsula, a few miles down, at the very mouth of the Wye where the Severn Ferry comes ashore. Perhaps the reason for both settlements, it has been suggested, was the timber traffic down the Wye, the traffic of those boats, as Domesday Book puts it, *euntibus in silvam*, going into the wood, which paid toll for their cargoes at the new castle of Chepstow.

St. Cewydd, in any case, is now having a raw deal. His Welshmen have gone. He has lost his dedication. He has lost his lead font of the 11th century, which has been removed to a house near by for preservation; and he is now in danger of losing his church. Only the name of his church and his parish will last. As for that elecampane, though it grows outside the wall, it belongs to the mediaeval churchyard. From Wales to Faroe churchyards were once a sanctifying haven for physic herbs.

A COUNTRYWOMAN'S NOTES ~ By EILUNED LEWIS

IN countless homes this week old diaries are being put away and old calendars taken down from the wall to make room for next year's fresh crop. The diaries, so full of small events, the warp and woof of every day, go into a drawer with their predecessors—the fat and stumpy, thin and tall, records of yesteryears. Strange that the very stuff of one's life should be packed into one medium-sized drawer. But the calendars, which have been our mute mentors by desk or fireplace, must be thrown away and replaced with the fresh and the unfamiliar.

* * *

THERE was one almanac of a different sort, a perpetual calendar, which hung in my childhood's home and unfailingly repeated its grave and elevated remarks from one year to another. This was a *Diary of Golden Thoughts*, collected by a great aunt and regarded with proper veneration by her youthful relatives. Not only did two or three copies hang from nails about the house, but a presentation volume of the same, bound in blue calf, lay on a table. I never saw anyone peruse this strange book, but the writing on the wall was not so easily evaded. Children of to-day, subject to constant bombardment by film, wireless and television, would no doubt disregard such aphorisms, but upon our blank and unsullied minds the impact was immense; and although the calendars, and even the blue leather edition, have now vanished, the memory of those daily precepts remains. We read them aloud every morning, admonishing each other like early Christians and savouring the words on our tongues.

Looking back, at this distance of time, I feel that the collection was overloaded with sayings by Lewis Morris, whose rather prosy remarks must have pleased my great aunt.

Strain upward, upward still,

Even to the heavenly source of purity,

was one, and we thought it sounded noble, in a vague way. Another began inexplicably,

Careful nobly, not with care that warps

Self-loving hearts to stifle and make mad.

Someone suggested that "warps" was a printer's error for "wraps," but this hardly made it easier.

Not always did the quotation fit the occasion. "Who hath despised the day of small things?" asked the prophet Zechariah severely on my mother's birthday. Since we held the date to be of importance second only in the year to Christmas Day, the question savoured almost of impiety.

We used the *Golden Thoughts* as a guessing game, asking "Who said so-and-so?" and sometimes inventing a few of our own, to catch each other out. The only one I can remember is "Love never forgets his errands; if so, it is for some good purpose." This sounded just as moral as Lewis Morris's remarks, and only a little more meaningless. Another frequent contributor was Mrs. Robert Browning, who appeared as E. B. Browning. Since at that tender age we had not heard of the lovers of Wimpole-street, we called her Edith Beatrice, and revered her greatly; almost as much as George Macdonald, and a great deal more than Zechariah and Lewis Morris.

The lines for December 30, the very day for which I now write, are still in my mind:

*Having reaped and garnered, bring the plough,
And draw new furrows 'neath the healthy morn,*

And plant the great Hereafter in this Now.

That "healthy morn" is for ever a winter day among the brown hills of home, with two horses and a ploughman plodding against the rain-washed sky, and a flurry of white seagulls following. I have only to repeat the words to taste once more the air—fresh with a hint of far-off snow—and feel the tremendous implications of the "great Hereafter" which will be sown in those earth-sweet furrows.

* * *

LATELY there was delivered by carrier at our door a case of merchandise from abroad, followed shortly afterwards by a document in the post to show that our goods had been insured

against risks during their transit on the high seas. This simple policy is written in such majestic language that it has quite altered my opinion of the people who choose insurance for their careers. Henceforward I shall regard them as the most poetical of men.

Is it in these terms, I wonder, that they converse with each other in their offices and coffee-houses?

"Touching the Adventures and Perils which the said Company is contented to bear and does take upon itself in this voyage," begins the argument, and straightway we are held, as was the Wedding Guest by the Ancient Mariner's glittering eye. There follows a list of the Adventures and Perils, including the Seas, Men-of-War, Enemies, Pirates, Rovers, Jettisons, Letters of Mart and Counter-Mart, Surprisals, Takings-at-Sea, Arrests, Restraints and Detainments of all Kings, Princes and People, of what Nation, Condition or Quality soever, Barratry of the Master and Mariners, and of all other Perils, Losses and Misfortunes that have or shall come to the Hurt, Detriment or Damage of the said Merchandises.

The fact that our humble goods voyaged in "the good Ship *Argo*" adds a touch of the heroic to the whole undertaking. The name of the captain, "whereof is Master, under God for this present voyage," is unfortunately missing from the document, but surely it was Jason.

* * *

WELL, we are not all heroes or Argonauts, yet each one of us is committed to a perilous voyage. Another Golden Thought from the old calendar returns to mind. "The master of a ship is judged not by the fortune of his voyage, but by the directing of his course aright." That may be true, yet the list of Adventures and Perils is a real one; we all run risks and most of us suffer losses. But as the New Year comes up over the horizon we can surely take comfort in the thought that to possess a stout heart and a sure faith is an even better thing than to be classed A1 at Lloyd's.

THE PROBLEM OF G. F. WATTS

By DENYS SUTTON



1, 2 and 3.—PORTRAITS OF (left to right) LORD TENNYSON, 1859, LORD LAWRENCE, 1862, AND ALGERNON SWINBURNE, 1865, BY G. F. WATTS, AN EXHIBITION OF WHOSE WORKS IS ON VIEW AT THE TATE GALLERY UNTIL JANUARY 16

ONE of the most agreeable tasks that befalls the present generation is to attempt a re-valuation of the art of the last century. It is no longer quite sufficient to fasten on those painters who are rated as the prime heroes of the hour, to the exclusion of others whose reputations may have been considerable in their lifetime, but who are now scorned by all except a handful of students. What we are so eager to know is just how the various strands in the artistic history of a period fit together; and in this respect the last half of the 19th century was extremely puzzling.

With G. F. Watts, who emerges as a kind of Gladstone of painting, the Arts Council has chosen for an exhibition a figure well worth reviving. The exhibition, moreover, has been launched with *éclat*; and the catalogue, which is equipped with detailed notes, contains two prefaces. It is all the more regrettable that the venue should prove so unsatisfactory. The Tate Gallery is certainly the proper place for such a survey, but one wonders if it is altogether fair to Watts's reputation that his work should be housed in the far end of the sculpture gallery, hung against dead white walls, and that the middle of the room should contain sculpture other than his own. As the Arts Council has organised no fewer than four other exhibitions in London at the present moment one is tempted to ask if too much is not being attempted at the same time.

Despite the difficulties with which the visitor has thus to contend, Watts emerges as a controversial and stimulating artist. We have a chance of measuring his present status against his past reputation. Only a bare half century ago efforts were made to secure the residue of his work for the Nation, and the correspondence exchanged then makes salutary reading. How is it that his painting was so admired; why has his work failed to finish the course? These are some of the questions prompted by this exhibition, and it is attractive to discover that he has found so ardent a champion in Mr. David Loshak, who considers him to be one of the giants of the 19th century. Unfortunately his appreciation does not altogether explain why this is so; nor does he place Watts in his age and make us see why his art appeared so relevant in his own time.

Although to consider Watts as the "inmate," as the "Signor," whose needs

were tended by a choice bevy of distinguished ladies, is certainly correct, the point is that his attitude and style were not such isolated manifestations as Mr. Loshak seems to imply. Watts's stand against the theory of "*l'art pour l'art*" and his belief that modern society was faced with considerable risks—his words on labour and the machine make prophetic reading to-day—were derived from an observant attention to his surroundings. In taking the line he did—

and his ideas are abundantly clear from his writings—Watts was giving artistic expression to views that were not his alone; they were deeply felt in certain sections of English opinion. He was very much a man of his time in so far as his painting indicated the reactions of cultivated society at the close of the 19th century, which was deeply disturbed by the intrusion of immense wealth into national life and by the state of the poor. Watts was not the man to couch his thoughts in pamphlet form, but the range of his emotional and rational response is evident. Thus, certain of his allegorical works—*Mammon* or *For He Had Great Possessions*—are in line, even at some remove, with the philanthropism of Lord Shaftesbury or the early social legislation of Sir Winston Churchill with its blend of Whiggism and Liberalism.

Watts's concept of life and his radical attitude to such matters (even if he did dwell behind sheltered walls) indicates that his art expresses some of the dominant themes of the period; it was his desire to make them as largely and broadly known as possible that turned him towards monumental painting. Thus he approached one of the central traditions of European painting that had survived into the 19th century; his blending of sociological and historical, neo-classical and allegorical themes relates him, not so much to Barry and Chénavard, as Mr. Loshak suggests, as to his contemporaries. His work may well be compared with Hans von Marées and Böcklin, and he shared certain common themes with the latter. Watts's interest in fresco, for instance, was the outcome of that frustrated desire for walls to decorate which was as common in Paris as in London; we have only to think of Gauguin or the Nabis at the turn of the century—although the themes are dissimilar. Nowadays Watts's frescoes are not among his most attractive works, but it is to be hoped that one result of this exhibition will be to direct attention to his decorations in part of Carlton House-terrace; as this is now under the control of the Foreign Office and not open to the public, could they not be transferred to the Watts Gallery at Compton?

If one examines the varied range of Watts's talents the problem emerges as to how it was that he has failed (if this is the case) to retain his hold on posterity. He certainly won the admiration



4.—LADY MARGARET BEAUMONT AND HER DAUGHTER, 1862

of many of the most alert judges of his time, and not only in this country. "He was not one of those men that shaped 19th-century painting, and also without him art would not have taken another course; but he was a precious possession of the Nation, an example of its strength and virtues and a teacher and example for all coming generations." These are the words with which Franz Wickhoff, that celebrated connoisseur of the Old Masters, closed his obituary in the Vienna *Neuen Freien Presse*. For all his sympathy Wickhoff places his finger on the missing element in Watts's make-up: his fundamental lack of originality. In other words, despite his skill, and it was considerable, Watts was unable to secure a new vision of the eternal problems that he chose to paint.

Though believing in progress, Watts did not himself believe in originality. In this connection his words to Mrs. Barrington are of considerable importance. "There is no such thing, really, as originality. How can the human mind conceive anything absolutely new? . . . To create what is called original art is merely the power to seize, remember and combine such experiences, and to put them into a form, stamping them doubtless with strong personal preferences and feelings; but the form such art takes cannot be really new, it must always be a reflection and combination of some-



6.—MRS. N. C. MACNAMARA, PAINTED AFTER 1875. (Right) 7.—SUNSHINE AND SHADE. THIS VIEW IN SURREY WAS THE LAST LANDSCAPE PAINTED BY WATTS AND DATES FROM 1903-4

thing that has never been seen or felt or heard. The combination may be a new one, but the ingredients are old." With these aims in mind, it was understandable that Watts should have adopted the methods of Titian, as handed down by Boschini, and so fervently studied the Elgin Marbles; it was also inevitable that he should not have achieved a combination that would, as it were, illustrate his own ideas of progress. As his art was imbued with a distinct and powerful emotion, he did encompass a curiously moving and even brilliant manipulation of forms and space, tinged with a mannerist note, as in his late landscapes. His art hovers on the verge of symbolical abstraction. In the last analysis, however, the grand themes that Watts chose were too much for him; and, as Mr. Alston has perceptively remarked, he remains a Don Quixote.

When Watts was faced with more manageable material, then the dangers of pastiche were correspondingly reduced. He is surely one of the most distinguished portrait painters of the 19th century, not by reason of his pictorial qualities alone, though these are far from negligible, but because he was able to suggest the mysterious forces that guide such men as Tennyson or Swinburne. They glow with inner life, and in catching their brooding mood he



5.—ENDYMION, 1869-1873, WHICH WAS PRAISED BY FORD MADOX BROWN AND G. K. CHESTERTON

recalls Lenbach, who, like himself, was a great devotee of the Venetians.

In painting portraits of women, with whom his relations were complex in the extreme, Watts showed a surprising hardness, and, if such portraits lack the

romanticism that marks those of his men, they strike the image of a special and fleeting moment in English life.

Illustrations: 1, The Hon. Mrs. Hervey-Bathurst; 2 and 3, National Portrait Gallery; 4, Viscount Alendale; 5, Lord Glenconner; 6, Admiral Sir Patrick Macnamara; 7, Mrs. Michael Chapman.



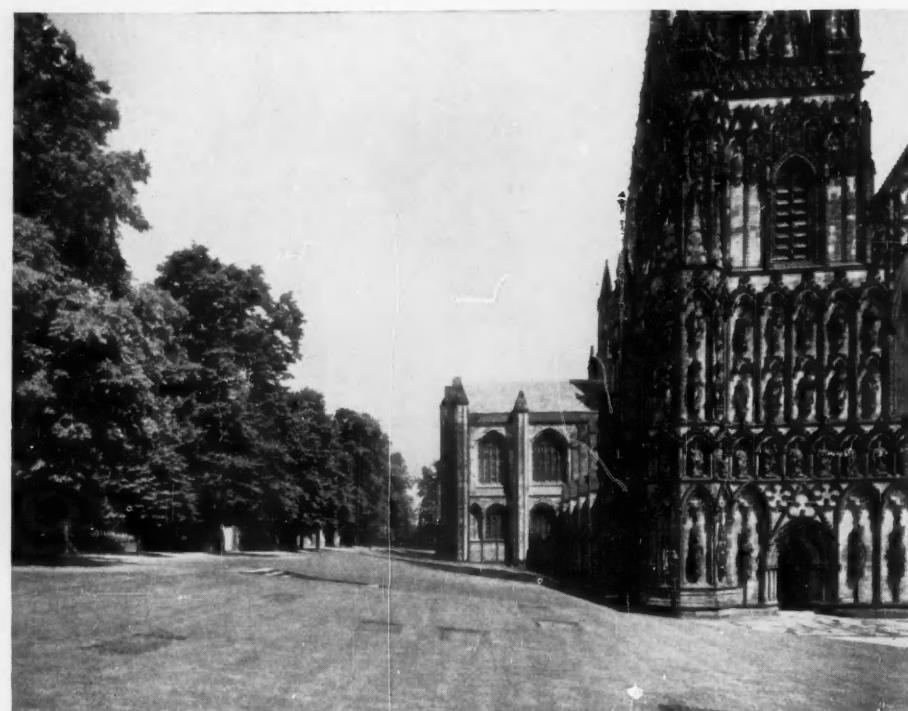
THE BISHOP'S PALACE, LICHFIELD

By HOWARD COLVIN and ARTHUR OSWALD

Built in 1686-7 to replace the mediæval palace wrecked during the Civil War, but not occupied by the bishops until the 19th century, the house has now been adapted for the use of the Cathedral School. Mr. Colvin's researches have revealed that the Restoration sculptor, Edward Pearce, was the architect.

AMONG episcopal residences the Bishop's Palace at Lichfield has never attracted much attention, secluded, as it is, by the trees on the north side of the close and, like many other late-17th-century houses, maintaining a fine reserve in its architectural expression. Even the circumstances of its erection had been forgotten within a hundred years, and after it was built it was not occupied by the bishop, but until well into the 19th century was let to a succession of tenants, among them Anna Seward, "the Swan of Lichfield." Now, since the death of Dr. Woods, it has ceased to be the Bishop's Palace, but the name has been kept in this article for its familiarity and convenience, and the photographs, taken in Dr. Woods's time, are a record of the house when it was still the palace. At the beginning of a new chapter in its history as the headquarters of St. Chad's Cathedral School, the opportunity has arisen for re-writing the opening one in the light of recently discovered letters and accounts, which reveal how the house came to be built and prove that its architect was Edward Pearce, better known as a sculptor and carver.

The old palace, in common with the cathedral, suffered severe damage during the Civil War, when Lichfield was three times besieged. It was a great rambling mediæval building, embracing two courtyards; the main range faced east, and there was another long range at right angles fronting the north side of the cathedral. Much of it dated from the time of Walter Langton, Edward I's Treasurer, who, besides rebuilding the palace, commenced the Lady Chapel; he also fortified the close with a precinct wall and towers,



1.—THE APPROACH TO THE PALACE, WHICH STANDS BEHIND THE TREES ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE CATHEDRAL BEYOND THE TRANSEPT

giving it defensive capabilities which were appreciated by the Royalists when they decided to garrison it. At the north-east corner there was a polygonal tower, 52 ft. high, the base of which survives in the lower part of the bastion that terminates the raised walk on the east side of the palace garden (Fig. 6). There is a deep drop in the ground on the outer side of the walk, marking the line of the moat, which turned south at the angle where the bastion stands. The state rooms of the old palace were ranged along the line of the walk, looking out east over the former moat. The chapel was in this range with projecting five-sided east end.

Langton's great hall, said to have been 100 ft. long and 56 ft. wide, was remarkable for its painted decoration of the early 14th century, an account of which has been left by the Staffordshire antiquary, Sampson Erdeswicke. Writing at the end of Queen Elizabeth's reign, he appreciated the unique historical interest of the paintings and regretted that they were not repaired by the bishops before they became quite decayed. They recorded "the Coronation, Marriages, Wars and Funerals of Edward the first; and some Writing there is yet also remaining, which expresseth the meanings of the History; where is especially mentioned the Behaviour of Sir Roger de Pewlesdone and others against the Welshmen; as also of Almaric de Bailgioll, Burnell, Valence E. of Pembroke, of the Lord Badlesmere, and other Barons against the Scotts, where the said Earls and Lords are very lively Pourtrayed, with their Banners of Arms bravely before them." As a contemporary record of historical events, these paintings would have had an importance comparable to that of the Bayeux Tapestry.

Through the energy and liberality of Bishop Hacket the wrecked cathedral was repaired and its central spire rebuilt within ten years of the Restoration, but the Bishop's Palace was left in ruins and Hacket contented himself with fitting up one of the prebendal houses as his residence. He was succeeded in 1671 by Thomas Wood, the former dean, who has been called the worst bishop the see ever had. Wood had contributed nothing to the restoration of the cathedral and had systematically opposed and obstructed Hacket, who had felt compelled to excommunicate him. As bishop, he neglected his diocese, wasted the revenues and indulged in corrupt practices. Archbishop Sancroft had the courage to suspend him, although he was the King's nominee and a protégé of the Duchess of Cleveland. On Sancroft's injunction he was ordered to pay £4,000 towards the rebuilding of the Bishop's Palace



2.—IN THE FORECOURT, LOOKING WEST. THE KITCHEN WING AND THE DINING-HALL (BEHIND THE SPECTATOR) WERE ADDED IN 1869

and the repair of Eccleshall Castle, the episcopal seat northwest of Stafford. In fact, nearly the whole of that sum was spent on the new palace.

The date 1687 is incised in the pediment on the front of the house (Fig. 4). This marks the completion of the work, which was begun in 1685. In the Bodleian Library there is a series of letters (MS. Tanner 131) written by the dean to Archbishop Sancroft reporting on the progress of the building. The Dean of Lichfield at the time was Lancelot Addison, father of the essayist, who was still a boy at the Grammar School to which Dr. Johnson and Garrick were sent a generation later. Dr. Addison was entrusted by Sancroft with the supervision of the work and the payments, but Sancroft directed proceedings from a distance. In the first letter to Sancroft (July 13, 1685), Addison wrote that he would be glad to see "an able Surveyor," and it is evident that Pearce was Sancroft's choice. A few years earlier, Pearce had made the designs for much of the woodwork of the chapel at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, the building of which had been initiated by Sancroft, who paid for the fittings himself.

Edward Pearce, or Pierce, was one of the ablest of Wren's craftsmen and remarkable for his versatility. Equally accomplished as

3.—THE PALACE AND THE CATHEDRAL SPIRES FROM THE GARDEN

a sculptor and wood-carver, he was at the same time an experienced mason, able to undertake contracts for several of the City churches and for some of the stonework at St. Paul's, and he was also a capable architect and designer on his own account. His father had been "a good History and Landscape Painter," to quote Vertue, and "also

drew Architecture, Perspective, &c." Father and son were both members of the Painter-Stainers' Company, and the younger Pearce became its Master in 1693. He is best known for his fine portrait-busts of Milton, Cromwell and Wren, but there is also much accomplished wood carving of his in the City churches, where it has inevitably been



4.—THE ENTRANCE FRONT, DATED 1687 IN THE PEDIMENT



5.—LOOKING INTO THE FORECOURT

attributed to Grinling Gibbons, and he was responsible for the magnificent carved staircase at Sudbury Hall, Derbyshire (1676-77). In Staffordshire he executed the carving in the dining-room at Wolseley Hall, much admired by Dr. Plot, who particularly refers to it in his *Natural History of Staffordshire*. Pearce also worked at Horseheath Hall, Combe Abbey and Hampstead Marshall, where he designed and carved gate-piers and other stone details.

The Bishop's Palace at Lichfield is the most important of his architectural works of which we have knowledge, indeed the only complete building which he is known to have designed. At the outset there was some local opposition. His proposals were criticised by Henry Greswold, one of the canons, and another unnamed correspondent, who would have preferred to see the old palace restored or at least part of it retained. Pearce had designed his new house to stand in the centre of the site facing the Cathedral, where, Greswold pointed out, it would lose the open view and much of the sun enjoyed by the old palace with its principal buildings ranged along the east wall. Moreover, "such a Tunnell or Stack of building, of 80 foot one way, and 60 another, as Mr. Pearce purposeth, or of whatever square, could never

for spaciousnes and grandeur be to be compar'd with what the late palace was viz^l. well on tow'rs 400 foot long . . . in the main range of building."

But the Old Guard were overruled, and before the end of 1685 the dean was giving orders for the old palace to be taken down. Its demolition cost nearly £400. The following May Pearce was in Lichfield, "signally diligent about the worke here, and will not leave it, till he sees the foundation begun." The foundation stone was laid on May 28. The work proceeded rapidly, although there was some difficulty about obtaining suitable stone for doors and quoins. "My lord Paget at my request was pleased to give us the liberty of his Quarry for 60 or 80 tun: but that will not be enough, besides the vein is so bad we are forced to bare often, wch is chargeable." By October the carpenters were working on the roof, and on December 11 Addison reported: "The outside of the Bps. house is now finished, and in all likelihood is strong enough for generations and for comeliness and conveniency fit to receive a person of Quality." Pearce paid another visit early in the New Year to adjust accounts and to give directions about what remained to be done.

Dr. Addison's letters to Sancroft are supplemented by accounts. In the MS. Tanner (fol. 224), there is a summarised account initialled by Sancroft



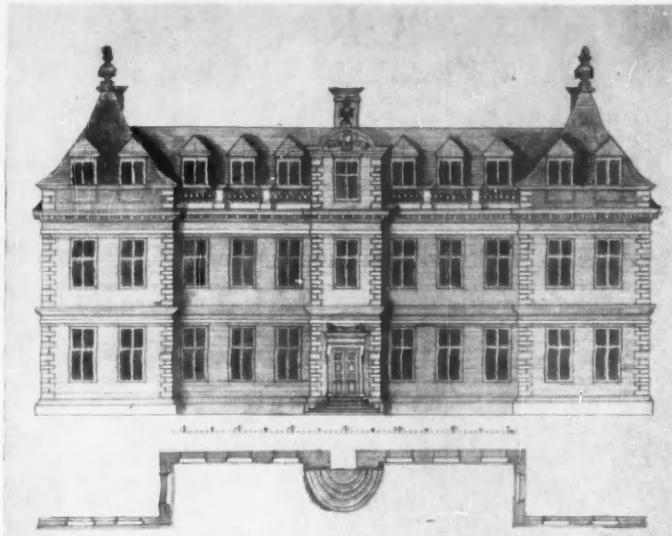
6.—THE BASTION AT THE NORTH-EAST CORNER OF THE GARDEN

and dated March 1, 1689, which gives the total cost as £3,972 3s. Pearce was paid £113 3s., presumably in fees. There is also, among the muniments of the Church Commissioners, the detailed account of Addison's expenditure (Muniment 123828). From this we learn that Pearce also received £14 for carving, probably the cartouche with the arms of the see in the pediment (Fig. 4). The carpenter was a Mr. Russell; the painter an Italian, whose name is spelt Bessono, Besano and Bassano. The plasterwork was in the hands of Henry Dogood, who was responsible for some of the finest ceilings of the time; but there is no original decorated plasterwork now in the house, and indeed all the surviving interior decoration is very simple.

A drawing in the Bodleian (MS. Tanner 217, fol. 53) shows an alternative design for a house with a longer front and recessed centre (Fig. 8). The elevation is a more sophisticated version of the front of Sudbury Hall, with wings that are given a high and decidedly un-English type of roof having concave sides sitting on a parapet above the main cornice and rising to a finial in the form of a flaming urn. The simpler design adopted is just a well-bred version of the type of house popularised by Sir Roger Pratt (for whom Pearce had worked at Horseheath), Hugh May and other followers of Inigo Jones and Webb, with



7.—THE GARDEN FRONT. COMPARISON WITH FIG. 9 SHOWS HOW PEARCE NARROWED THE RECESSED CENTRE



8.—A PRELIMINARY DRAWING FOR A HOUSE WITH A LONGER FRONT. (Right) 9.—PLAN OF THE GROUND-FLOOR, WHICH WAS SUBSEQUENTLY MODIFIED BY WIDENING OF THE WINGS. The drawings are in the Bodleian Library (MS. Tanner 217, fol. 53 and 48)

the emphatic pediment, pronounced cornice and hipped roof neatly dormered. The recessed centre went round to the garden front (Fig. 7). It became progressively narrower, for there is a plan (MS. Tanner 217, fol. 48), in most respects corresponding to the house as built, but with a wider recession on the north front, five instead of three windows wide (Fig. 9). The walls at either end of the "Parlor" were simply extended northward, widening the wings, which would have looked very skimpy if the alteration had not been made.

The forecourt has a fine pair of stone gate-piers, which, unfortunately, have lost the vases with which they were originally surmounted (Fig. 5). A curved flight of steps flanked by simple iron railings leads up to the entrance, dignified by a pair of consoles and curved pediment. The hall has lost its original decoration, but the main staircase to the right of it is unaltered (Fig. 10). This is just a substantial piece of oak joinery with broad handrail and stout balusters; evidently economy had to be practised. At the other end of the hall there is a service stair (Fig. 11),

and the door beyond the foot of it leads into an oak-panelled room with corner fireplace. "Chappell" and "Anty Chapell" are indicated as occupying the whole of the west wing, but in fact never seem to have done so, doubtless because the bishop chose not to reside. The "Drawing Room" and "Clositt" at the east end are now one big room with the north end marked off by a screen of Doric columns introduced in the early 19th century.

As the bishops preferred to use Eccleshall Castle, the house was let. Two of the earlier tenants were Lord Stanhope and Gilbert Walmisley, registrar of the ecclesiastical court at Lichfield, who befriended Dr. Johnson in his youth. When Thomas Seward became a canon of Lichfield he occupied the house and lived in it until his death in 1790. Anna, the poetess, his elder daughter, spent most of her life in it. Lichfield was then "a nest of singing birds" (to appropriate the phrase Dr. Johnson used about his college), and father and daughter entertained all the members of that remarkable literary coterie which included Erasmus

Darwin, Richard Lovell Edgeworth (father of Maria Edgeworth, the novelist), Dr. Parr, Howard, the prison reformer, and Thomas Day (the author of *Sandford and Merton*). Dr. Johnson, when he visited Lichfield, also came to the house which he had known so well as a boy, but was not *persona grata* with Anna. A picture of pleasant evenings spent strolling in the garden is summoned up by this passage in one of her letters of the year 1771: "The dear Quartetto do not forget you. Our rambles upon the Terrace have been very animated these last evenings, Mr. Edgeworth enlivening us by a wit extensive as the light of the sun & active as its heat, Doctor Darwin laughing with us, while we have felt the fine edge of elegant, ingenious, & what is most rare, good humor'd irony." The other members of the "Quartetto" were her father and (especially dear) John Saville, the vicar-choral, for whom she had a romantic fondness. Anna Seward lived on in the house after her father's death and died there in 1809.

James Cornwallis seems to have been the first bishop to use the palace, but it was only after Selwyn came to Lichfield in 1868 that Eccleshall was sold. With the money so raised the two wings flanking the forecourt were built—the eastern as a dining-hall (Fig. 4), the western for kitchen and offices (Fig. 2). The date 1869 appears on their down pipes. Selwyn also built the Gothic chapel at the north-west corner of the house in prolongation of the garden front (Fig. 3).

When the present Bishop of Lichfield was appointed, he decided to live in a smaller house, and the palace was given by the Church Commissioners to the Dean and Chapter for the use of St. Chad's Cathedral School, which is both a preparatory school and choir school. The house has now been thoroughly redecorated, and it has been adapted with remarkably little alteration. On the ground floor are library and dining-room; the headmaster, Prebendary Walters, has a comfortable flat on the first floor, and on the top floor are dormitories. The new arrangement is a happy one from all points of view.



10.—THE MAIN STAIRCASE, EAST OF THE HALL. (Right) 11.—AT THE FOOT OF THE SERVICE STAIR



THE LAST OF THE NORFOLK HORN SHEEP

Written and Illustrated by G. KENNETH WHITEHEAD

IN 1845 David Low, in his *Domestic Animals of Great Britain*, observed that "a remarkable variety of sheep, usually termed the Old Norfolk Breed, occupies the higher lands of Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridge. These sheep, once very numerous in the heathy districts of this part of England, are a wild and hardy race well fitted for a country of scanty herbage . . . They were long the prevailing breed of Norfolk and Suffolk; but, as improvements extended, they became more confined to the higher grounds, and animals of more docile habits and superior fattening properties supplied their place in the cultivated country."

There cannot have been many members of this breed on "the higher lands of Norfolk," however, for only eight years earlier than Low's work Youatt, in *Sheep*, had written: "Even in Norfolk the aboriginal breed has almost disappeared. It has given way to the pure South Downs, or the Norfolk and the South Down or the Norfolk and Leicester, or the pure South Down and the Leicester." One of the drawbacks of the Norfolk Horn breed was its slowness in coming to maturity, so the improved breeds rapidly supplanted it.

All early observers speak of the agility of these sheep and the necessity to give them plenty of range. The introduction of a close-folding system of shepherding in Norfolk also contributed to their decline. For instance, Robert Wallace, in *Farm Live Stock of Great Britain*, quotes Garrett Taylor as having written: "One of the drawbacks to the Norfolk Horned Sheep is, they can jump like goats, and are very difficult to keep within bounds, very wild, and very slow meat producers; but when once fat, the flesh is most excellent." It is small wonder, therefore, that this breed resented the introduction of close folding.

By the beginning of the present century Robert Wallace records that "the last remnants of the breed lingered in the flocks of Russell Colman, of Crown Pound, Norwich; and the executors of the late Col. Harry M'Calmon, Newmarket, Cambridge."

The entire Colman flock seems to have perished on August 26, 1912, when 7.2 inches of rain fell in twenty-four hours and produced probably the greatest flood ever known in Norfolk. Describing this tragedy, Wallace writes: "The sheep had been grazing on marshes, according to custom, with a herd of Highland cattle. When the flood reached them all the animals made for the highest land near the gate. When this was gained the cattle escaped, but the sheep refused to be driven to safety and were left as darkness came on, after repeated attempts, and disappeared before the morning."

The flock that survived at Newmarket



A NORFOLK HORN RAM, ONE OF A THREATENED BREED. (Left) LAMBS ARE MUCH SPECKLED AT BIRTH

Norfolk Horn was probably extinct, apart from Mr. Sayer's flock at Lackford.

Mr. Sayer became interested in the breed in 1895, when, at the disposal sale of Mr. Manfred Biddell's flock at Playford, Ipswich, he bought a single ram for 12s. 6d., which was joined shortly afterwards by four ewes that a friend of his, Mr. F. Jennings, of Cockfield, had purchased at the same sale. In 1896, twenty other animals were obtained from Mr. Norman Bocock, and these may also have originated from the Playford flock.

For a time the Lackford flock flourished, but then, when they started to fail, Mr. Sayer handed over to the Norfolk Agricultural Station the few that remained, retaining only two ewes and a ram for himself. "Unfortunately," writes Mr. Sayer, who is now over ninety years of age, "these remnants have never done any good, for they have been unable to rear a ewe lamb. This year (1953) one ewe had two ram lambs born dead. Being so few, they have become too inbred."

The Norfolk Agricultural Station did not retain the sheep for long, for they handed them over to Dr. John Hammond at the School of Agriculture, Cambridge, who, besides being a native of Norfolk, was particularly interested in the inheritance of a recessive character known as cryptorchidism (undescended testes making the rams sterile), which was endangering the breed. This year one of the two surviving rams was a unilateral cryptorchid, which is a halfway state between a normal animal and one with both testicles retained in the abdomen, and so sterile.

Commenting on this condition Dr. John Hammond writes: "It is a recessive character and so if it is in the strain it comes out on inbreeding. This is what has happened in the Norfolks. As a semi-cryptorchid ram has more sex drive than a normal ram if the sheep are left to themselves, the defect is, therefore, perpetuated on inbreeding. The Ministry of Agriculture, therefore, refuse to license bulls, boars and stallions with this defect. The male offspring of semi-cryptorchids are normal, but the defect is carried down in a hidden condition and crops up again in future generations."

In 1950 the total stock of sheep at Lackford and Cambridge numbered only thirteen, and last year it had fallen to twelve, of which eight were rams.

On March 21 I saw the sheep at Cambridge for the second time, and it so happened that during the previous night a ewe had borne triplets—two ram lambs and one ewe—



was sold by auction on September 11, 1919, when, according to the sale catalogue, ninety-four animals came under the hammer. Thirty-four sheep, including two rams, were bought for £118 18s. by Mr. J. D. Sayer, who already had a number of this breed at Lackford, near Bury St. Edmunds. The remaining sheep were bought by a Mr. Norman Bocock, of Newmarket, who owned a butcher's business in London. By the early 'twenties, therefore, the



A SOUTHDOWN RAM, THE MALE PROGENITOR OF THE MODERN SUFFOLK BREED

all of which were in good heart. The two ram lambs weighed $7\frac{3}{4}$ lb. and $7\frac{1}{2}$ lb. respectively, and the ewe was $5\frac{1}{4}$ lb.—a total of 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Although it must be many years since the last Norfolk Horn ewe reared triplets, it was probably a common enough event in the past, for most of the old writers describe the ewes as being very prolific and making good mothers.

Standing about 31 inches high at the shoulder, the Norfolk Horn ram is a handsome animal with its long, twisting horns (about thirty-one inches in length) and short jet-black hair on the face and legs. The ewe is also horned.

According to Wallace, the sheep "never suffered from footrot, and so free were they from all the common diseases that old age was the most common cause of death." The same authority observed also that "no breed could show the same proportion of red meat to fat at the end of the saddle cut." In 1900 the breed

gained a first prize in the carcass competition at Smithfield Show. One wonders, however, if the carcass displayed at Smithfield was a pure-bred Norfolk Horn, for over fifty years before the show, owing to the scarcity of the breed, Low (1845) made the following comment: "It is to be observed that the greater number of sheep now brought to the markets of London under the name of Norfolks are crosses, or the offspring of crosses, especially with the Southdowns."

"The softness of their fleece," observes Low, "gives them some affinity with the Southdowns; but they differ from that race in their robuster



THE SUFFOLK RAM, ALTHOUGH POLLED, PRESERVES THE BLACK HEAD AND LEGS OF THE OLD NORFOLK HORN BREED

form, and in their bolder, wilder and more restless habits . . . their wool weighs from two and a half to four pounds the fleece, is fine and silky, and possesses sufficient felting properties to fit it for being made into second or livery cloths." Early in the present century, however, the ewes in Colonel M'Calmon's flock at Newmarket were said to be producing, on an average, about 8 lb. of wool each.

Although Low and other 19th-century writers all believed that the Norfolk Horn would soon be completely ousted by the Southdown, their prediction has been only partially fulfilled, for, instead of the Southdown, a

Southdown-Norfolk Horn cross—the modern Suffolk—is their successor.

The Suffolk sheep was first formed towards the close of the 18th century by crossing ewes of the Norfolk Horn with a Southdown ram, the progeny of which were known at first as Southdown Norfolks, or locally as Blackfaces. Then in 1859 the Southdown Norfolks were designated with their present name Suffolks, although it was not until 1886 that the first volume of *The Flock Book* came into being. The crossing of these two breeds is of particular interest, for it brought together two dominant characteristics—pollium in the Southdown and black head and feet in the Norfolk Horn—both of which asserted themselves in the offspring. Thus we find that the modern Suffolk, apart from the poll character of the Southdown, has preserved the colour, size and appearance of the old Norfolk Horn.

It will be seen that for over a century the Norfolk Horn has

been on the verge of extinction, and there is no doubt that, but for the enthusiasm of Mr. Sayer, this sheep would by now have joined the Warton Cragg and other lost breeds. This year Dr. Hammond retires from the School of Agriculture and arrangements have, therefore, been made for the transfer of the Norfolk Horn sheep to a farmer in Bedfordshire who has given an undertaking to preserve the breed. Uneconomic as some of these old breeds are, it is, nevertheless, a pity that there is not some domestic-animal zoo where a few specimens of ancient sheep and cattle breeds can be preserved.

IN SEARCH OF ICELANDIC BIRDS

Written and Illustrated by FRANCES PITTS

ACCORDING to the forecasts, Iceland is the cauldron in which are brewed the many depressions that come down from the north to afflict the British Isles, yet the weather had been kind to the two of us adventuring through the northern end of the island with car, tents and cameras.

The sun had shone, glittering on snow-capped peaks, the flies, for which Myvatn is justly famed, had enveloped us in dense steaming clouds and the breeze was a gentle one. We scoffed at reports of bitter winds and dreary mists. We watched fleets of ducks on the lovely lake, we noted snow buntings, redwings, white wagtails and wheatears playing in and out among the tumbled confusion of the lava rocks and we explored as best we could some part of the corrugated, petrified porridge with which so much of this highly volcanic country is covered—and we gloried in the hot sunshine.

But we could not stay too long in one spot; we had to strike out camp on Myvatn's shore, stow our tents and belongings on and in the car, bump back southwards over the long, winding, bad, but lovely, road and make for the most beautiful of Iceland's many lakes, Thingvellir.

We had everything planned, down to the exact moment that we would take the road, but Iceland's Clerk of the Weather put his fingers to his nose and stirred up the cauldron. From it he first produced rain and plenty of it. I woke up in the morning to the sound of steady pattering on the canvas of the tent. Apart from the beating of the rain, everything was quiet. No ptarmigan called, no whimbrel trilled, not a duck quacked, nor did a tern scold. The rain continued and it was impossible to strike camp. One could not pack up tents saturated with moisture; nor could one do much in this steady downpour. I wrote letters, which might get to England some time, although the postal arrangements in the interior of the island were exceedingly obscure, and brought my diary up to date. I read and finished the last of the thrillers we had brought along for such an emergency and by three in the afternoon was reduced to playing patience.



HAY BEING CUT NEAR AKUREYRI, IN NORTHERN ICELAND

into the lake rose steam in wispy clouds. One of the luxuries of the spot was the warm water supply—a volcanic area has its advantages for camping purposes.

I gazed across the grey silvery water, on which the raindrops made countless rings, and wondered how the downpour would affect the just hatched and hatching ducklings, the mallard, wigeon, scaup, tufted duck, Barrow's goldeneye, long-tailed duck and red-breasted merganser young coming from the egg in such numbers. A white wagtail family were dry and comfortable in a snug nest on a ledge of an

overhanging block of lava; but the cocks of hay in a near-by "meadow"—a small area reclaimed from the lava waste—were saturated.

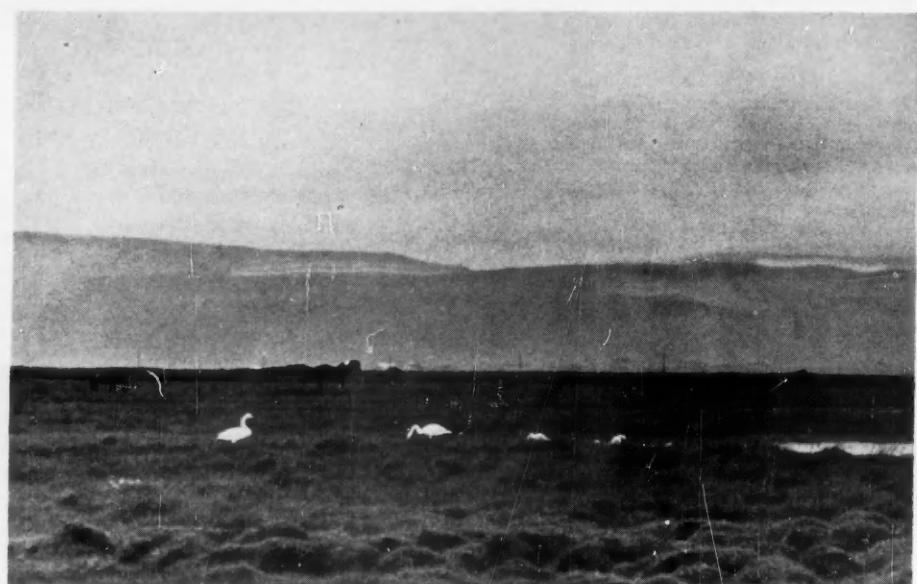
The next entry in my diary is as follows: "Rained and blew all night. We crept into our sleeping bags at 8 p.m. and I was soon asleep. The roaring of the gale which had now sprung up woke me now and again, but not for long. However, at 7.30 a.m. I really regained consciousness, to find it was still blowing hard, but the rain had abated. The sky was grey, the wind was from the north and went through one rather than round one. White horses raced across the lake and the spume from the waves, flying on high, was carried far over the land. Very few ducks were in our cove. A Slavonian grebe's nest, well out from the shore and anchored to a few water-weeds, had ridden out the storm successfully and its owners were busy carrying fresh material to it, but a neighbouring nest could not be seen. The tern chick was all right behind its usual stone, only gasping because of a stickleback stuck in its throat. With a great effort it got the little fish down. A mallard convoyed a brood across the cove; the little things rode the waves so lightly. Walked across the headland to 'The Harbour,' usually alive with red-necked phalarope and ducks, but saw only two of the former and a few scaup, plus a party of golden plover."

The next day: "Sitting in tent and saying things about the Icelandic weather, while long-tailed ducks fly overhead crying 'Ar-ar-arrrat!' and three broods of mallard—ten, two and five in number—paddle out from the shore, under the wicked survey of a great black-backed gull sitting on the point. A very wetting Scotch mist is our trouble—tents too wet to take down—must wait a while."

"11 a.m. Outlook better and drier. We are going to begin dismantling our camp. Two red-poles, very tame, come and peck at dandelion seed heads and watch us.

"1.5 p.m. Everything loaded on the car. We wave 'good-bye!' to the long-tails and other ducks, to the grebes and terns, take a last look at the young wagtails, a pipit's nest and a wheatear nest and move off, though it is only to run up to the farm for bread, etc., so that it is 1.30 before we really start south."

The journey remains in my memory as a series of vivid pictures, especially of halts here and there. The first was to see how a Barrow's goldeneye was getting on in her nest-hole among the wayside lava rocks, and the second call was on a whimbrel. She delayed us, for her four eggs were hatching; indeed, the eldest of the lovely chicks was already strong of leg and a most determined wanderer. We had to wait



A PAIR OF WHOOPER SWANS AND THEIR CYGNETS GRAZING NEAR THE SIDE OF THE ROAD

a while, watch and photograph father, mother and offspring. It was with the lovely trilling call of the whimbrel in our ears that we got on the road and headed for Akureyri. It was about 6.30 p.m. as we drove over a high barren fjeld and came to the steep descent that leads to the capital of the north. The wide valley, with its long fjord, lay before us, with snow-capped heights behind that glittered in the afternoon sun. The little town was mapped out below, its houses dotted along the water's edge, and to the right the fjord stretched as far as the eye could see until it blended with the waters of the Arctic ocean.

We pulled off the road on to the site of a former camp, got some supper, curled ourselves up in the car and went to sleep, sleeping so soundly that it seemed 7.30 next morning in no time. My companion was anxious to view the midnight sun, and might here have done so but confessed she had been too sleepy to think about it; however the coming night she would certainly stay awake.

After doing some shopping in Akureyri, we climbed from the valley out on to high ground to find new snow on the hills near by and snow showers sweeping down from them. The weather

was changing for the worst. A bitter wind from the north brought whirling snowflakes on its blast. We drove through a snow-storm and later into heavy rain, so heavy that we could hardly see the road ahead. We struggled along, the rough Icelandic road getting no better for all this water, and in the late afternoon passed through Blönduós to find ourselves on a gale-swept plateau with the sea close at hand. Luckily a gravel quarry offered shelter and we turned into it. I looked at the dark, stormy sky across which dour clouds hurried in endless procession and reminded my companion about the midnight sun. She ignored my frivolity and got out a flask of hot tea. It was indeed nectar of the gods. Despite the gale direct from the Arctic, we slept comfortably, to be awakened early by the crowing of cocks and the whistling of whimbrel, accompanied by savage gusts of wind. The sky was low and grey and there was water everywhere. The cold was bitter.

We were glad to start up the car and get on the road again, but it was by no means a joy ride. We drove on and on, taking the wheel in turn, under vile conditions—a wicked gale, bitter cold and many snow showers. However, there was life about. We saw many ravens, including a party of six, and there were redshanks everywhere. Whimbrel were nearly as numerous. When we halted I found some chicks by the side of the road. Whooper swans were frequent: first two on a lake, then two grazing in a very goose-like manner on a grassy stretch, and next over fifty on the turf of the flats in the valley at Fornihammur. They were spread out as if distributed from a pepper-pot. This was not the first time we had seen a large herd of this magnificent species (one was over seventy strong), and we speculated as to the reason for so many non-breeders. They all looked like adults. Some swans had managed to nest all right, for later we saw several couples with cygnets.

As the day wore on conditions improved, and by afternoon they were much better. As the wild storms receded the clouds parted, the sun came out to change grey waters to blue, to make the distant views exquisite studies in shades of purple, and to light up the grim crags on the left of the road, with many small birds wheeling before the rocks. For a few minutes I could not identify them; it was only when I grasped the size and height of the crags that I realised they were not so small, being in fact fulmar petrels. There were quite a number of them. The crags towered probably to 1,000 ft. We camped under them that night, again in a gravel quarry, with a road on our other side and beyond a salt-water fjord, but before turning in we called at the near-by farm-house. We had made the acquaintance of the lady of the house on the journey up country. She greeted us as old friends, in the perfect English she had learnt at school, and insisted that we came in, drank



AN ICELAND REDWING AT NEST WITH YOUNG. It is much darker than the ordinary redwing

coffee and tried her cakes. Her kindness was boundless, but not peculiar, for wherever we went it was the same.

The next day dawned as beautiful as its predecessors had been bad. The world was a miracle of beauty, from the great purple-black crags towering overhead to the distant mountains, their tops freshly powdered with snow, glittering against the blue sky.

The afternoon found us approaching Thingvellir, a large and beautiful lake about thirty miles north-east of Reykjavik. The road had run with undeviating straightness across barren, tundra-like, brown, wind-swept wastes, but suddenly it dived between tall pillar rocks down a ravine like the Cheddar Gorge, and there was Thingvellir, the great lake, the hotel, church and the two or three houses standing near the water's edge. The name Thingvellir looms large in Icelandic history: great gatherings have assembled there, great resolutions have been made there, and to this day it is a popular Sunday and holiday resort for the people of Reykjavik. Nevertheless, on six days out of seven it is very quiet and little disturbed.

We went on past the little hamlet and found a nice camping-place at the north-east corner of the lake. Compared with Myvatn the

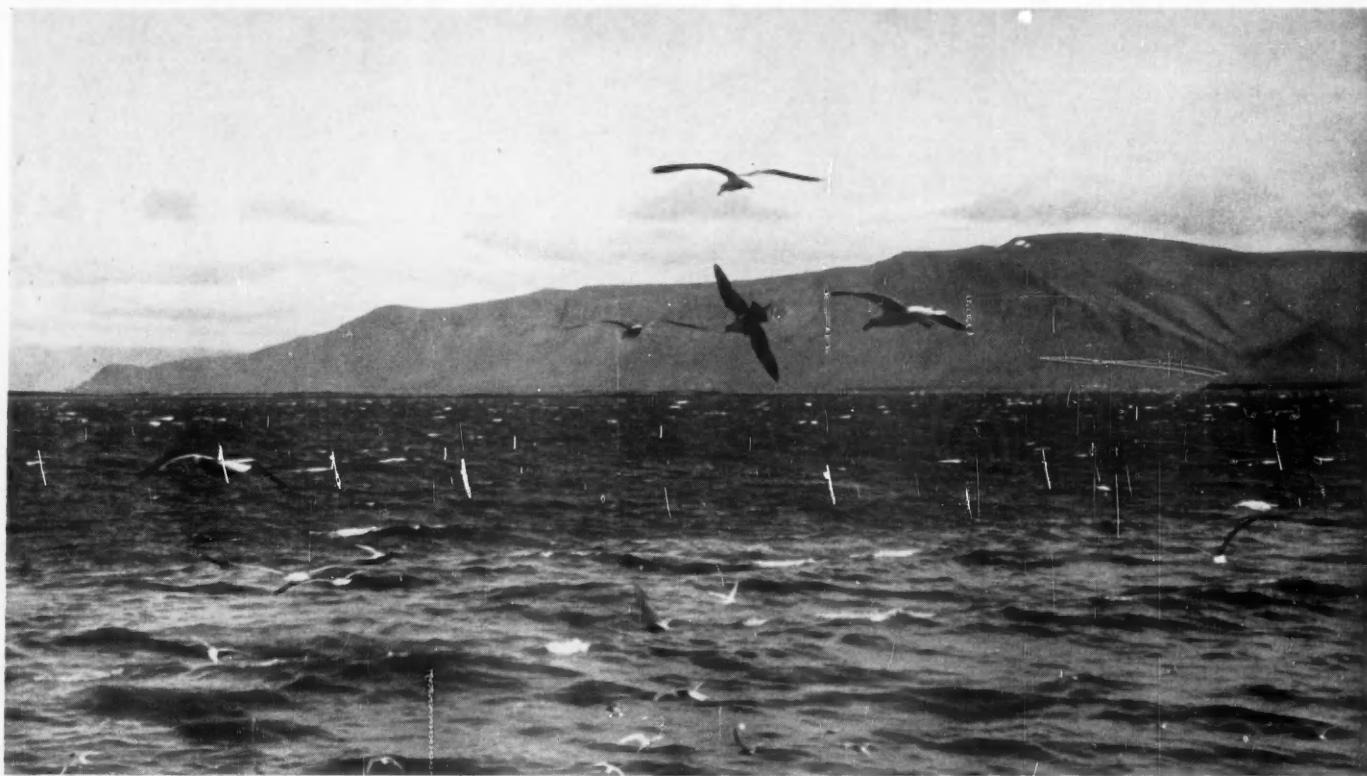
photography. It was on the ground and of blackbird type. In it were five nearly fledged young. Being anxious to obtain a photographic record, I put up a hiding tent in the hope of getting a few pictures. Previous experience with *T. m. musicus* had caused me to regard the redwing as a particularly shy and wary bird, so I was delighted to see the pair make a speedy return and perch on a near-by bush. In a minute or two the smaller and lighter bird, which I assumed to be the female, was on the nest side stoking her hungry young with juicy red worms. In a few more minutes she was back with another beakful. The male gave her no assistance, but sat on the bush, where I could see and admire him. He and his mate were a handsome couple—their light eye stripe conspicuous against their dark plumage and their heavily marked breasts.

The road of the redwings led on to many things of interest, from a flock of black-tailed godwits more than two hundred strong and nearly all males already assembled in readiness to leave the breeding haunts, to a family of whooper swans and one of the tamest ptarmigans I have met. She had chicks and had been convoying them across the road when we came along in the car. With a warning note, she sent

others, but they were too far off for us to distinguish the species.

Returning, we left behind us a ringed plover and passed a very white and smart snow bunting, while several oystercatchers flew by. There were a number of black-tailed godwits displaying their handsome persons along the way, birds that still had family affairs on their minds, unlike the congregation we had lately viewed that had so obviously done with such things for this season.

And so we came back to the whooper party, the two parents and the five well-grown cygnets, some three weeks old, I guessed. They were smart youngsters, with grey down that was much paler and cleaner than that of a juvenile mute swan: it was the shade of a fleecy cloud against a blue sky on a summer day. There were two or three small reed-encircled marshy pools, the haunt of red-necked phalarope and dunlin, and the largest seemed to be the headquarters of the swans. The parents were much alarmed at the sight of us and our cameras, but devotion to their offspring kept them on the water, at least until I tried to get a little nearer, when their nerve failed and with mighty flaps of their great wings they rose in the air. However, parental love drew them back and they returned



SEA BIRDS OFF THE COAST OF ICELAND. The dark bird with the wedge-shaped tail (middle) is an Arctic skua

water was lifeless, but birds were not lacking. Snipe flew overhead drumming most of the time, there were many redshanks, and in the scrub birch, which was as tall as ten or twelve feet, there were plenty of redwings. Black-tailed godwits were numerous; there were mergansers, mallard and a pair of tufted duck, and in the morning a pair of great northern divers called us with weird, wild yells.

The redwings had special interest for me. I had often studied the subspecies found in Europe, both as a winter visitor to Britain and in its Scandinavian breeding haunts, and could claim an intimate acquaintance with it. Now I was confronted with a noticeably darker bird. I was aware that the Iceland redwing is regarded by the experts as a subspecies of *Turdus musicus*, the chief distinction being its darker colour, but I had not realised it was so sooty. These birds could have been distinguished from those of Europe, Russia and Siberia at a glance. *T. m. coburni* is easily recognisable.

Most of the redwings had already got broods on the wing, but on the roadside some miles south of Thingvellir, in low birch scrub, we found a nest conveniently placed for

them scuttling into the shelter of the wayside herbage, where they vanished completely, while she studied us. We sat down and the ptarmigan had a good look at us, staring at us from every angle as she walked to and fro and round and round. I am sure that if we could have stayed and let her get used to us, she would have called out the little things, for she was obviously more curious than afraid.

I cannot say the same of the swans, for of all nervous, timid creatures they were the worst. The cob and pen had five grey-white cygnets on some marshy ground between Stokksyri and Selfoss, but having spotted them we left investigation until later and drove on towards the sea. We pulled up by a wall whence we had a fine view. The shore was rocky, with many little harbours, pools and small sand flats. Eider ducks were in view, together with twenty or more cows grazing on the thrift tufts, and many whooper swans. One party was over twenty-two strong, then there was a herd of fifteen and many odd birds, including one on a grass field behind us. There were also some swimming on the sea. We spotted a seal heaving itself on to a rock, and I thought I could discern

to the family, when we withdrew and left them to get over the disturbance of their peace.

Returning to Thingvellir past a lake where fishermen with rod and line were having great sport with the trout, we saw a large flock of golden plovers, another, or the same, flock of godwits and seven Arctic skuas, and we got back to our camp, to sup on trout given us by the kind anglers, dried apricots and custard, and be lulled to sleep by the cries of redshank and the drumming of snipe.

But we were wakened by the roaring of a gale, a ferocious wind that came straight from the Arctic and nearly carried off the tent. There was new snow on the hills and the cold was bitter, so we packed up our goods and betook ourselves to the warmth of a Reykjavik hotel, though with much regret, for the camping had been great fun. Ships unloading cod in the harbour, drying fish hung up in endless lines and great stacks of dried cod, even ladies in the old Icelandic costume, did not delight us to the same extent as the godwits, ptarmigan and swans, in particular the bird cries that had roused us in a morning—the drumming of snipe and the wild yells of the great northern divers.

A NEW YEAR OF GOLF

A *Golf* Commentary by BERNARD DARWIN

"I HAVE often thought," said Sir Roger de Coverley, "it happens very well that Christmas should fall out in the middle of winter." He was doubtless right, but I do not think it happens well that it should fall out at the week-end, because if Christmas Day is on Saturday, so is New Year's Day; the golfer's hopes will vanish in a flash and he will be in his normal state of despair on the very first day of the year. It would be far better if it fell out on a Monday; then the golfer has five whole days over which to gloat over the new systems he has devised and the good resolutions he has made. He will have enjoyed at any rate five days of bliss, however illusory.

In this present year thousands of golfers will have discovered by lunch time on Saturday that their new swing is a humbug; they will have sworn at their caddies (if they have any), thrown their clubs about, "approximated" their score to the tune of several mendacious strokes and generally broken all their vows of moral regeneration.

* * *

If it happened that New Year's Day fell out at midsummer I suppose the good resolutions, at any rate of the more industrious, would relate to hours of practice in the long evening light. As it is they are more likely to deal with the avoiding of some one fault. I dimly remember to have written an article on this subject some six and forty years ago in which I said that the most profitable single resolution was "Be up."

I am still inclined to think I was right. The time for good resolutions for me is now past, but I observe with pain that when I try to throw a sock or a collar into the dirty clothes basket it nearly always falls short, although the basket has what most putting greens have not, namely, a back wall. It is clear that the cowardly old Adam is as rampant in me as ever it was, and I do not suppose that I am really much worse than my neighbours.

Shortness is the commonest of all golfing weaknesses. We think of shortness chiefly in regard to putting, but it runs through our whole game. If golfers could only persuade themselves when in doubt to take the longer of two clubs, I believe they would save many strokes in the course of the year. I know that it is easier, or at

any rate feels easier, to take the shorter club and hit hard with it, but is not that a weakness? It is one to which the greatest have been known to admit.

I remember Mr. Laidlay telling me once that he often took his cleek, when he knew he could not quite reach the hole and his conscience dictated a brassey. He was a very fine cleek player, as well as a very shrewd golfer, and I dare say that on the average it paid him, but it was, even in a player of genius as he was, a confession of weakness.

I should imagine that with the multitude of iron clubs which men now carry in numbered array, there ought not to be quite so much difficulty as there used to be in making a decision. The gap between any two of them is not so wide as it used once to be between the cleek and the mid-iron or the mid-iron and the mashie; but I may be talking about something that I don't know enough about. At any rate I will hazard the view that between numbers 7, 8 and 9 there cannot be any fatally large difference. I am sure that the advice to take the bigger of two clubs is sound, and if the player is frightened of sparing the shot with the longer club, he must practise till he overcomes what I readily admit is a natural, human fear.

* * *

I wonder, by the way, as I reflect on New Year's vows, whether people nowadays treat themselves, as I used to do, to a present of a club for the coming year. Do they buy single clubs nowadays? To fall in love with a No. 4, let us say, and to have to buy the whole set in order to get it, must be expensive. A putter has still a separate individuality of its own; it refuses to belong to any band of numbered gangsters, and so to some extent does a driver, but once he is in the middle of the numbers, heaven help the club-buyer.

I used always to think that Christmas was a dangerous time to buy a new club, for the reason that one was apt to buy it not at the professionals' shop, but in some store in the great city. There was something about that seductive place that took away all my understanding of the lie of the head or the spring in the shaft or, in short, of any of its qualities.

It looked lovely there, perhaps on a

THE UNKEMPT GARDEN ◊ By W. J. WESTON

THERE are no ancient gentlemen but gardeners, ditchers, and grave-makers; they hold up Adam's profession (Hamlet).

Yes; but tastes differ, and men there are that care not to have a neat and comely garden. It is nothing to them that their neighbour toils on his plot of land and makes his garden a delight to the eye. One such had followed the shameless advice "When buying your house, see to it that the garden is small enough for your wife to manage." Digging and weeding were not for him; such leisure hours as he had were for golf and bridge. Nor was he subject to any domestic pressure, since his wife had tastes like his. So it came about that "where once the garden smiled" there was an unsightly and undisturbed asylum for weeds; thistle and nettle, dock and ragwort grew and seeded unmolested, and the winds of autumn wafted the weeds afar.

Well, the neighbour has a garden that augments the amenity of the area. He is ever solicitous about it; his riddance of weeds, though, is becoming a more and more exacting task, by reason of the condition of the adjoining land. Must he submit to the recurring invasions of his garden by the unwelcome seeds? The question comes with a distressing regularity—distressing because one can give no real comfort in answering it.

There is, indeed, this provision in the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947: "If it appears to a local planning authority that the amenity of any part of the area of that authority . . . is seriously injured by the condition of any garden . . . in their area, then the authority may serve

on the owner and occupier of the land . . . a notice requiring such steps for abating the injury as may be specified in the notice." This is from Section 33 of the Act. But has any local planning authority invoked the power in respect of a private garden? Probably not; what the planning authorities, perhaps rightly, consider more pressing duties still encumber them, and the power sleeps unused. It may be that the provision slipped into the Act without anybody's close study whether it could be put into effective practice; or it may be that, as happens on occasion, the Government was by its insertion persuading itself, possibly others too, that something was being done to guard the amenity of a residential area, whereas nothing in fact was being done. At any rate the news would surprise that a planning authority had served a peremptory notice upon the occupier of a private garden.

But could not the neighbour convince a Court that the escape of noxious seeds from the adjoining land is a nuisance? His trouble would be that the accumulated weeds resulted from doing nothing; no act had fostered their growth, and one cannot dictate to his neighbours that he shall use his land as a good gardener does. A man is entitled, if he chooses, to leave his land untended, a private garden at all events; he is under no duty to eradicate weeds lest his neighbour suffer damage. He is answerable even for the escape of things naturally on his land, if he has actively accumulated them there so that their escape does more mischief than, without his activity, it would have done. But he is not answerable where he has been passive.

beautiful green carpet under the glare of electric light, and, as sure as fate, my wits would, in Mr. Peggotty's expressive phrase, go bird's-nesting. It makes me still hot all over to think of some of the clubs I have bought in such insinuating circumstances. And here, too, I can quote a confession of weakness by a great player and a great judge of a club; Harold Hilton, in an article he once wrote, issued a solemn warning on the subject.

* * *

Now my wits have gone bird's-nesting again, though in a slightly different way. When I began this article with New Year resolutions I meant soon to pass on to more general New Year topics and behold I have not left myself much space. But after all there is not such a great deal to say. The championships are all to take place on admirable battlefields; the Open at St. Andrews, just a little different from an open anywhere else; the Amateur at Lytham and St. Anne's; the Ladies' at Portrush; the English at Ganton; the *News of the World* at Walton Heath; the Internationals at Birkdale; and the Walker Cup at St. Andrews.

Taken all round, I cannot think of better choices, and the two, to my mind, most stirring events, the Open and the Walker Cup, are to be on the greatest golf course in the world. I should like to think we were going to win that Walker Cup, and I cannot for the life of me see why we should not—and yet, well, the last disappointment at Birkdale has a little shaken me. I think the selectors have done a thoroughly good job, and the players, with no anxieties of fighting for their places, have a tranquil winter in which to work at their game. Let us hope for the best.

I do not say much about the Ryder Cup match in America, first of all because I do not know as I write how this rather trumpery quarrel about the choosing of the side will have ended, though I hope it will have ended peacefully long before the appointed time; second, because I quite frankly cannot think we have any real chance in the other fellow's country and refuse to say, with a fine, hearty, hypocritical optimism that we have.

And so a happy New Year to all good golfers! May all their new systems turn out magical and may they keep all their good resolutions!

THE UNKEMPT GARDEN ◊ By W. J. WESTON

We are obliged to submit, with such patience as we can summon to our aid, to the necessary annoyances arising from the ordinary use and occupation of lands and houses; and it is, unluckily for the aspiring gardener, quite ordinary for a man to neglect his bit of land. He leaves nature free to work and, apart from obligations upon an occupier that have been created by Act of Parliament, the law is emphatic that no occupier can be held answerable for the wayward doings of nature, even though his neighbour is grievously prejudiced by those doings. "I never heard," said a former Lord Chief Justice, "of such an action as this. There can be no duty as between adjoining occupiers to cut the thistles, which are the natural growth of the soil."

Unless the occupier has been an adjutant of nature in producing the harmful things he is free from legal blame, however much his passivity lays him open to social blame. Let him, however, be in some way or another active in bringing into existence these things, and his liability is not in doubt. If for his own purposes he accumulates on his land plants or animals that, should they escape his custody, will harm his neighbour in person or in property, he must keep them in at his peril. The roots of his poplar tree encroach and do damage. No thought of harm to his neighbour was in his mind when he planted the tree. Yet the escape of its roots is the equivalent of "His enemy came and sowed tares"; the owner of the tree is responsible for the damage done just as he would be if he knowingly and maliciously placed a harmful thing upon his neighbour's land.

CORRESPONDENCE

CAUSE AND EFFECT

SIR.—The popular belief that the bad weather of the last eight months has been caused by atomic explosions may stimulate some of the elderly to a little idle reminiscence by their mid-winter firesides. During the first World War, unwelcome rain in England was sometimes attributed to the heavy gunfire in France. Barely a generation earlier tomatoes were still feared as a cause of cancer. A century or two before that potatoes were denounced for the same evil—and earlier still they were said to cause leprosy.

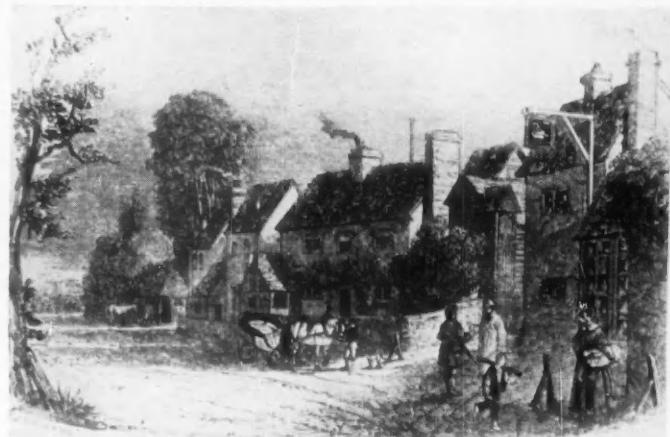
The credulity of some people is almost unlimited. Combined with it is a quaint piety-gone-off-the-rails which is sometimes expressed in the words "It wasn't meant to be." Most of the opposition of about a century ago to the use of anaesthetics in childbirth was on those lines. Current attempts to make rain in other countries are subject to the same kind of objection. Incidentally, critics sometimes suffer stabs in the back. At a religious meeting in New England, when the proposal to make a canal to join two natural waterways was being considered, an opponent said that if God had intended these two waterways to be joined, He would Himself have joined them. The meeting considered this in silence for some time. Then someone spoke: "And Isaac digged a well."

In fact, of course, most major technical achievements and many scientific enquiries into mysteries have been enfiladed with the same objections—that this is against God or against nature or that man is not meant to know. Even the alteration of the clock for summertime has been attacked as an insult to "God's time." We can now await with confidence the evils which will be attributed to keeping hens on the battery system and the introduction and spread of myxomatosis. These will be the judgement on us for that wickedness. Dyed-in-the-wool traditionalists may rejoice that the mediaeval outlook is still with us.—W. J. Somerset.

THE BATTLE OF THE SAINTS

SIR.—There is an excellent pair of pictures showing the two great moments of the Battle of the Saints (1782) at Harptree Court, Somerset. By comparison of photographs it appears that they are of high dramatic quality and at least as good as the pair illustrated in your third article on Bertrington Hall, Herefordshire (December 16). In one case Rodney's *Formidable*, seen from bows on and clearly distinguishable by her admiral's flag at the main, is breaking the French line.

In the other the *Barfleur*, 90, whose name is easily visible on her stern, is accepting de Grasse's surrender in the dismasted *Ville de Paris*.



WOODCUT OF ABOUT 1840 DEPICTING THE SCENE OF MARY RUSSELL MITFORD'S *OUR VILLAGE*

See letter: Our Village

The *Barfleur* was the flagship of Rodney's second in command, Sir Samuel Hood.

The pictures are noteworthy for their convincing nautical accuracy, and are said to have been painted after much consultation with eyewitnesses of the battle. The artist was the Bristol shipbuilder, James Martin Hillhouse, and it seems not inconceivable that he may have had some co-operation from the well-known Bristol marine artist Nicholas Pocock.

The Battle of the Saints was, of course, ecstatically hailed by Bristol's West India merchants, and the consequent saving of Jamaica was the main reason for such incidents as the granting to Rodney of the city's freedom and the naming, in Clifton, of Rodney-place and the house (of about 1790) from which I write.—BRYAN LITTLE, Rodney House, Clifton Down-road, Bristol, 8.

A CHAPEL RESTORED

SIR.—I enclose three photographs which I took recently of the newly-restored Lumley Chapel, which stands in the grounds of St. Dunstan's Church, Cheam, Surrey.

This chapel was the chancel of a church built before the Norman conquest and the original Saxon flint walling has been revealed by the removal of a pebble-dash facing. The interior has been thoroughly cleaned and restored and all arms and shields recoloured according to the original designs drawn in 1590. The three principal memorials within are to John, Baron Lumley, his wives Jane and Elizabeth and his children.

When the church was demolished ninety years ago all its other memorials

and brasses were crowded into the surviving chancel.—JOHN A. BRANCHER, 26, Chestnut-grove, South Ealing, W.5.

OUR VILLAGE

SIR.—The article *Country Anniversaries of 1955* (December 2) includes mention of Miss Mary Russell Mitford (1787-1855), the author of *Our Village*. A minute woodcut in front of me records the scene in the book as the artist observed it about the year 1840. The enclosed photograph enlargement brings out the details fairly well, and I thought might be worth reproducing as a footnote to Mr. G. Christian's article. Here are shown the forge, the cobbler's shop, the village stores with "snug porch," the house with sash windows, Miss Mitford's own abode with her pony chaise standing in the roadway. The Swan, in the foreground, completes the picture.—WAYFARER, Lancing, Sussex.

THE IRON TRUNK

SIR.—With reference to Mr. Instone's query about the Iron Trunk at Wolverton, Buckinghamshire (December 9), I find that J. Hassell, in his book *Tour of the Grand Junction*, published in 1819, gives the answer.

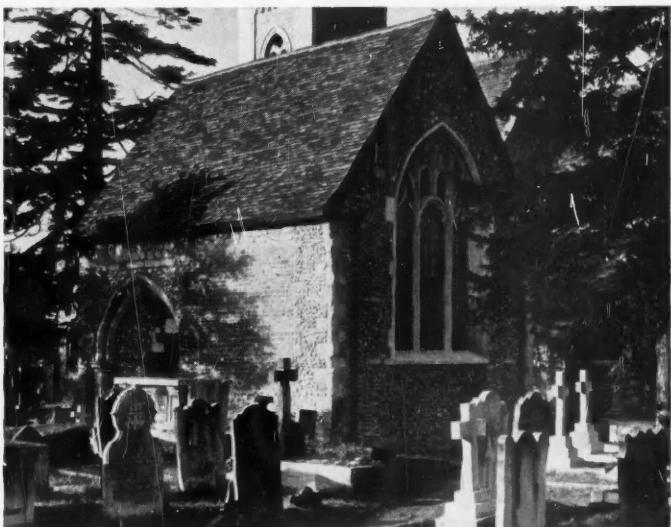
Originally the valley between Cosgrove and Wolverton was crossed by nine locks. Following this came an embankment built on arches. Mr. Bevan, an engineer of Leighton Buzzard, predicted that this structure would not last a year. He was right.

The temporary erection of a wooden trough followed, until another of iron could be cast, and this was undertaken and finished at Haseltine's foundry, in Shropshire, and laid down in the place of the wooden one, all in the course of a year from the time of the accident.—GEORGE FREESTON, Blisworth, Northamptonshire.

CHILDHOOD RECOLLECTIONS

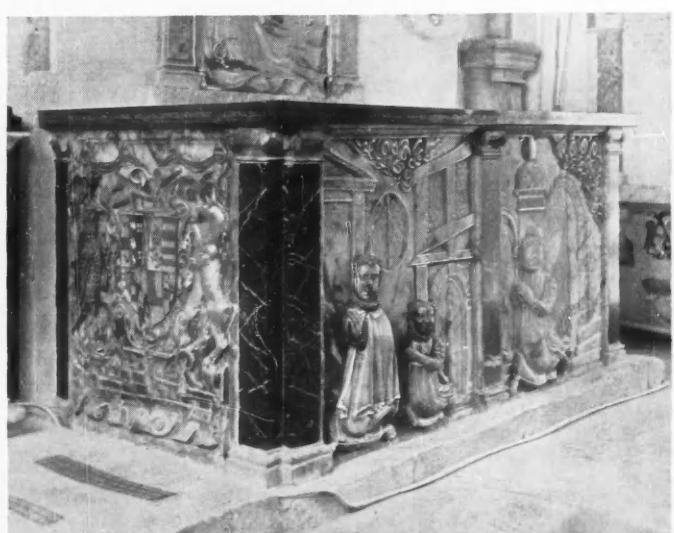
SIR.—I was particularly interested by the photographs of the Iron Trunk, as in my youth I lived at Wolverton House, two meadows away from the Trunk, and was constantly passing over it. No doubt, like that of the Forth Bridge, the ironwork must be frequently painted to prevent rust, though I cannot recall ever seeing painters at work on it.

In the days when I was at school at St. Paul's College, Stony Stratford, it was a favourite Sunday walk to go up to Old Stratford and along the Buckingham Arm up the canal to the locks at Cosgrove and then to cross over on to the towing path up the main canal and proceed along the straight two miles to the Locomotive Inn at Old Wolverton. On this stretch the canal flows at the top of a high embankment, as can be seen in the photograph, where it is carried across the Ouse by the Trunk. There are fine views of the country on



THE LUMLEY CHAPEL AT ST. DUNSTAN'S CHURCH, CHEAM, SURREY. (Below, left) WALL TABLET TO JANE, FIRST WIFE OF JOHN, BARON LUMLEY: SHE DIED IN 1577. (Below, right) ALTAR TOMB BELOW THE WALL TABLET

See letter: A Chapel Restored





RHEOLA HOUSE, NEAR RESOLVEN, GLAMORGAN, WHICH WAS ENLARGED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 19th CENTURY BY JOHN NASH FOR HIS FRIEND JOHN EDWARDS

See letter: *Buildings Designed by John Nash*

both sides, and between Cosgrove and the River Ouse there is a large reservoir called the Broadwater, on which, incidentally, there was excellent skating during hard frosts. Leaving the canal at the Locomotive bridge, one proceeded by a footpath leading past Holy Trinity Church. There was a great mound opposite the east end of the church and no one knew what it contained. There was a rumour that Royalist soldiers killed at Naseby in 1645 were buried there, but this seems unlikely, as Naseby is from 15 to 20 miles distant.

The footpath leads away from the west end of the church to the side of the main road from Stony Stratford to Wolverton. It passes in front of Wolverton House and then crosses the fields again from the end of Mill Lane, passing eventually the old church tower and graveyard of Stratford Church, long since a ruin.

Shortly beyond the churchyard the path emerged into the High-street (Watling Street), not far from the big doors of St. Paul's College, and so our circle was completed.—L. G. W. WILKINSON, *Bankdale Lodge, Moffat*.

BUILDINGS DESIGNED BY JOHN NASH

SIR.—In your issue of December 2 attention was drawn to houses in the West Country, the design of which was attributed to John Nash, and I thought it might interest your readers to bring to light a further example which has quite an interesting history. This is Rheola House, which stands fairly high up on the north side of the Neath valley near Resolven.

The story of the mansion goes back to 1800, when Mr. John Edwards, a Parliamentary solicitor and subsequently M.P. for Southwark, was attracted by the Vale of Neath and purchased the house of Rheola and the adjoining land. What he purchased, however, was merely a small double-fronted house which for some years he used only as a summer residence. Later he decided to make Rheola his principal home and make appropriate extensions to the old house. Edwards was intimately acquainted with John Nash, and owing to this friendship Nash undertook to carry out the extensions at Rheola.

Although Edwards wanted the house considerably enlarged and with some large rooms, it was his desire that its cottage-like appearance should be preserved, and, as can be seen from the photograph and the following description, Nash carried out these instructions.

The old house is almost invisible, being incorporated in the centre of the west wing. The completed house is in the form of a U. The south front and

part of the west wing are shown in the photograph. Along this south front are three large, well-proportioned rooms—the dining-room at the east end, with a large bay window, connected by double doors to an anteroom, which again is connected by double doors to the drawing-room at the west end.

The entrance to the house is from the west into a front hall behind the drawing-room. This leads on to a spacious square inner hall rising the full height of the house and lit by a large round lantern light. The cantilevered stone staircase rises round two sides of the hall. It rises to a gallery running round the other two sides, from which access is obtained to the front bedrooms, and by means of side passages to a large number of rooms situated on the upper floor of both the east and west wings.

Behind the dining-room on the ground floor of the west wing is a large library with ceiling at least three feet higher than the rooms in the front of the house and with a number of high

arched windows looking over the garden and Rheola Brook to the east. Beyond this is a further room of rather similar proportions and style, and beyond that again is the billiards-room, which is only one storey high and lit by a large rectangular lantern light. There are altogether no fewer than forty rooms.

In 1829 John Edwards died and the house went to his son, who, on succeeding to the will of his father's cousin, Mr. William Vaughan, assumed the name and arms of Vaughan. It is interesting to note that his son was named Nash Edwards Vaughan and was a Member of Parliament.

The Rheola estate remained in the Vaughan family until 1937, when an aluminium smelting-plant was built in the grounds. In 1946 the present owners, Tube Investments, decided to take over the property and erected their new aluminium rolling-mill there. The house and gardens are kept in good repair, the house being used partly as a guest-house and partly as administrative offices. The house is

always a source of interest and admiration to visitors, who can be comfortably housed there during their stay.—AUSTYN REYNOLDS, *Longbridge Manor, nr. Warwick*.

A PORTRAIT BY PIETER VAN REYSCHOOT

From *Lord Hastings*

SIR.—I was interested to read in *Collectors' Questions* of December 2 a letter and reply thereto in respect of the painter Pieter van Reyschoot. I have a portrait by this artist of Mrs. Roger Metcalfe. She was a daughter of Sir Philip Astley, 2nd Bt., of Melton Constable. She was born in 1703, married Metcalfe in 1731 and died in 1772. Metcalfe was an M.D., of St. Giles-in-the-Fields, London. He is said to have been a well-known person and a friend of Dryden.

It is an attractive portrait painted to the waist within an oval of a pretty woman in a pretty dress, and is signed and dated 1740.—HASTINGS, *Swanton House, Melton Constable, Norfolk*.

SHADES OF THE PAST

SIR.—Although flood scenes are now all too common in several parts of England, the enclosed photograph may be of interest for the historic country which it shows. These are the moors due east of Athelney, in Somerset, that "Isle of Nobles" where Alfred found a winter refuge from the Danes and kept at least that small and remote spot free from their domination, thanks to the encircling waters. The photograph was taken from the slopes of Burrow Mump.

When driving along still passable roads this month one was sometimes unpleasantly aware of the height of the swollen river above even the roof of the car, at points where road runs below the level of river.

Incidentally, the last annual report on Somerset birds does not mention the bittern, but I am told that most years bitterns are seen in this territory.—BYWAYMAN, *Somerset*.

TULIP TREES IN THE NORTH

From Lt.-Col. Sir Ramsay Maitland, Bt. SIR.—I was interested to read Mr. Russell's letter in your issue of December 2. It would appear that the tulip tree is hardy anywhere in the British Isles. One here (450 ft.



THE FLOODED ATHELNEY MOORS, SEEN FROM BURROW MUMP, SOMERSET

See letter: *Shades of the Past*

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N.B. Names of new Bols Woodcock Club members
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above sea-level) was blown down in the great gale of January, 1953: it proved to be 75 years old. It was healthy and would probably have begun to flower regularly, as a branch blown off the top during a storm in 1951 had two flowers on it, though these were not visible from the ground. It is now growing vigorously from the stump.

There are a number of promising young trees in Angus, including one or two of the allied Chinese tulip tree. The climate is about as severe as anywhere else in Scotland, and growth is probably slower than in the south.

It may interest your readers to know that *Davida* is quite hardy here, and a 24-year-old tree has been covered with flowers every summer for about five years. The Tasmanian *Eucalyptus Gunnii* and *urnigera* look as if they will grow well: a specimen of the former (about 20 ft. high), in a very exposed place, was broken down to the ground by snow.

The chief enemies to tree growth up here are the severe spring frosts, which often occur well into May.—G. R. MAITLAND, *Burnside, Forfar.*

WEST COUNTRY STAGS' HEADS

SIR.—Recently I had the opportunity of examining two exceptionally fine red deer heads from Devon that are being mounted for Mr. K. J. S. Webber, of the Tiverton Staghounds.

I enclose photographs of these two heads, the measurements (in inches) of which are as follows:

	13-pointer	15-pointer
Length	41	42 $\frac{3}{4}$
Beam	6	6 $\frac{1}{8}$
Brow point	14 $\frac{1}{8}$	14 $\frac{1}{8}$
Inside span	30 $\frac{1}{4}$	29 $\frac{1}{2}$
Spread	37 $\frac{1}{8}$	39 $\frac{1}{2}$
Points	6	7
	7	8

Apart from the great Endsleigh head (1950), which had an antler length of 45 $\frac{1}{2}$ ins. (20 points), and a 14-pointer killed at Werrington in 1948, with an antler length of 44 ins., the Tiverton 13-pointer is the largest head to come from the West Country. I estimate its age at about ten to eleven years. The 15-pointer is about three years younger and, had he been spared, would undoubtedly have improved. It will be noted that all these fine heads have come from the country south of Exmoor.—G. KENNETH WHITEHEAD, *The Old House, Withnell Fold, Chorley, Lancashire.*

VESTRY PAYMENTS FOR VERMIN

SIR.—Churchwardens so far quoted in your correspondence columns seem to have been paying a far lower rate for



SHAGREEN BOX CONTAINING SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS, ONE OF WHICH IS HALL-MARKED 1672

See letter: *Surgical Bygones*

destruction of vermin than prevailed in this corner of Dartmoor. Entries in our accounts from 1736 to 1760 give the following: for a fox, 3s. 4d.; a vixen, 6s. 8d.; a badger (sometimes called a gray), 1s.; stoats and weasels (entered as fitch, or sometimes fish), 6d.; hedgehogs (fuzzpigs), 4d.; kites, 4d.

As our churchwardens of those days wrote as they spoke, the entries sometimes take a little working out: in particular it took me some time to find out that "fish" should really have been "fitch," and not a salmon from the Teign for the rector's dinner! But perhaps our best entry in vernacular spelling is for a fowl cover (still in use) which appears as "cover for vant."

The last payment for vermin seems to have been in 1762; the following year someone was paid for his journey to Okehampton about killing foxes, which suggests that son e other authority then took the matter over.—JOHN M. SCOTT, *The Rectory, Gidleigh, Chagford, Devon.*

SURGICAL BYGONES

SIR.—On September 23 you published a photograph of a case of 17th-century surgical instruments, with an accompanying letter from me. Recently I received a letter from Professor Kenneth F. Russell, Associate Professor of Anatomy in the University of Melbourne, Australia.

He gives his opinion as to the use of the various instruments as follows

(starting at the back): sinus forceps; tongue depressor of very elaborate shape; scissors; probably a measure (although it could be a scoop for getting ointment out of a bottle); dental scraper for scaling teeth; ointment spatula; director with ring handle; director and scoop (this may be a modern addition, as its shape is much later in date than the rest: it is unusual to have two directors in such a case, and it may have been put in to replace a silver catheter, which, though usual in these cases, is missing from the one in question); caustic holder, for holding a stick of lunar caustic at one end, and a little box at the other end for red oxide of mercury.—STANLEY MARLING, *Littleworth House, Amberley, Gloucestershire.*

[We reproduce the photograph of the set of instruments referred to by Mr. Marling. In our issue of December 9 a correspondent suggested that the instrument nearest the camera was a "pipe with fenestral" used as an aid to stitching wounds before spring forceps were invented. He cited as his authority Ambroise Paré's *Apologie and Treatise* (1634).—ED.]

CLOCKS FROM THE BARBERS

SIR.—Mr. David Roberts says in *Collectors' Questions* of December 2 that he believes Winster is a small town in Derbyshire. This may be so, but his clock was made by Jonas

Barber at Winster in south Westmorland. There were three clockmakers of this name who carried on business there for more than a century from 1682. The father died in 1720, the son in 1764 and the grandson in 1802.

A long account of them and their clocks, with illustrations, was written by the late T. Cann Hughes for Vol. 16 of the *Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society*.—C. ROY HUDLESTON, *Laurel Bank, Penrith, Cumberland.*

DISPENSING WITH A LONG STOP

SIR.—I was interested to read in your issue of December 2 that next year marks the centenary of the birth of W. L. Murdoch, the Australian cricketer, who played for Sussex. The writer expressed the view that Murdoch might have been the first wicket-keeper to dispense with a long stop in first-class cricket.

You may be interested to know that my father (1844-1919), the Sussex wicket-keeper from 1868 to 1890, was the first to do so. This was in the Sussex v. Gloucester match played at Hove in 1893, many years before any Australian side visited this country.—H. PHILLIPS, 16, *Edmund-road, Clive Vale, Hastings, Sussex.*

GENERAL WOLFE'S FATHER

SIR.—With reference to the portrait published in your issue of December 2, it may interest your readers to know that there are portraits of General Edward Wolfe and his wife Henrietta, both by Sir James Thornhill, at Quebec House, Westerham, Kent.

Quebec House, known originally as Spiers, belonged to the father and mother of James Wolfe, who lived there from 1726 until 1738. James was not actually born at Quebec House but at Westerham Vicarage, where his mother was staying during the absence of her husband with his regiment. Quebec House now belongs to the National Trust and contains a considerable collection of Wolfeiana.

Mr. J. L. Woolf in his enquiry notes a similarity in features between his portrait and the known portrait of General James Wolfe. The trouble is that there are so many varying portraits of James Wolfe it is difficult to know what he really looked like.

The Chairman of the Quebec House Committee—Mrs. Christopher Soames—and I are desirous of compiling a list of all known and authentic pieces of Wolfeiana.—A. M. WOOD, Hon. Sec., Quebec House Committee, *The Old Rectory, Sundridge, Kent.*



EXCEPTIONAL DEVON RED DEER ANTLERS: A 13-POINTER AND (right) A 15-POINTER

See letter: *West Country Stags' Heads*



CARS DESCRIBED

THE HILLMAN MINX SALOON

FOR many years the Hillman Minx, in its various forms, has been a very popular car, and much of the credit for this is due to the unfailing good service of the original side-valve engine. Although this engine of modest power has been retained in both the Husky Utility and a popular saloon, the rest of the range—Saloon, Convertible and Californian coupé—now use a completely new overhead-valve engine. I have recently carried out a test of the de luxe saloon, and the benefits from the use of this new engine are obvious. The average motorist accustomed to the earlier model could easily, and without the use of a stop watch, notice the improvement.

The chassis and body design remain basically unchanged: it is proper to consider these together as there is no separate chassis. One notable difference is that the air entry is now one of the most pleasing on lower-priced cars. The front suspension is independent with coil springs and wishbones; the rear suspension has semi-elliptic laminated springs. The suspension is controlled and assisted all round by hydraulic piston-type dampers, and an anti-sway bar is used on the front suspension to prevent roll on corners. Rubberised bushes are used in certain of the suspension bearings, and reduce the number of points requiring periodic greasing. Four permanent sockets are provided at each corner, so that jacking the car up is a simple and clean operation.

The most interesting feature of the Minx is the new overhead-valve engine. The capacity has been increased from 1265 c.c. to 1390 c.c., compared with that of the well-known side-valve model. Owing partly to the slight increase in capacity, but more to the much better breathing provided by the use of overhead valves, the power output has been increased from 37.5 to 43 brake-horse-power. As both the earlier model and the one under review weigh about 20 cwt., it is easy to appreciate the improvement that has been made in the power/weight ratio. Many motorists assume that an increase in power means an increase in fuel consumption, but this need not be so. The improvement in the power/weight ratio has enabled the top-gear ratio to be raised, so that a given road speed is obtained with a reduction in engine speed. Another advantage of this new engine is its use of the modern square dimensions—*i.e.*, the bore and stroke are equal. This has the effect of raising appreciably the speed at which the car can be driven without sacrificing reliability. Whereas the earlier engine had a theoretically safe cruising speed of 56.8 m.p.h., that of the new model is approximately the same as the maximum speed of which the car is capable. The widely opening bonnet gives good access to most parts of the engine; the oil filler is placed high on the valve-cover box. The dipstick is too short, and it is doubtful whether

many owners could dip the oil level without receiving a burn from the neighbouring exhaust pipe.

Not only has the body pleasing lines, but it is well laid out internally. The angle of the cushion and squat of the bench type front seat, and the relative positions of the pedal controls and the steering wheel, make the driving position both efficient and comfortable, and neither the interior door handle nor the window winder could interfere with a driver of any height. The upholstery of the seat and squat allows one to sink in, and thus gives some support at the sides. Vision is very good in all directions: both front wing tips can be seen by a driver of average size, and the passengers in the rear seat have a pleasant impression of airiness. The luggage boot is usefully large, and the spare wheel is carried in a separate compartment beneath. Cubby holes, without lids, are provided on each side of the central instruments. The handbrake is sensibly placed to the right of the driving seat: a great improvement on the pistol type usually hidden beneath the dashboard.

One's first impression on driving the car is

By J. EASON GIBSON

because of the smoothness both of the car as a whole and of the suspension. There is a nice big-car feel about the Minx owing largely to the almost complete lack of the pitching one usually experiences in small cars over sharp bumps on the road. Even when driving fast over secondary road surfaces one is unconscious of the hard work being done by the suspension, and there is a feeling of laziness rather akin to the boulevard ride of the transatlantic car. Whereas most drivers would settle down at between 50 and 55 m.p.h. as the most comfortable cruising speed on the previous model, 10 m.p.h. can be added to these speeds with this latest model. It is only as the speed passes 70 m.p.h. that the engine becomes obtrusive.

There is ample room for the driver's left foot beside the clutch pedal, and—an important point to many motorists—the distance between the three pedals is such that even when wearing large country boots one can hardly touch two at once. The same thought is shown in the placing of the dashboard controls: lights, windscreen-wiper, choke and starter. They are big enough and far enough apart to be easily found and worked, even if one is wearing heavy gloves.



THE HILLMAN MINX SALOON. It has restrained lines and its chromium is not excessive

that it appears to belong to a higher price class than it does. This is accounted for by many factors. There is a pleasant feeling of solidity: the doors do not close with a tinny clank, and the various controls work with a smoothness not usually associated with cars of modest price. In addition the engine delivers its power with a very acceptable standard of smoothness and silence. In town and normal main-road driving the car can be easily started from rest on second gear; first is reserved for re-starting on a hill or in emergency. The steering-column gear-lever is arranged so that top and third gear, those most often in use, are nearest to the steering wheel; the lever can be operated by the finger tips without removal of one's hand from the steering wheel. Because of the generally high standard of smoothness and silence, I was a little surprised that the starter should be slightly noisy. This is a small criticism, as the engine started instantaneously from both hot and cold—after standing overnight in the open with the temperature below freezing-point—so that the starter noise was heard only momentarily.

The car is very nippy on the open road and, if driven enthusiastically, is capable of holding its own with larger and more expensive cars, but even then the performance is unobtrusive

A small but worthwhile point is the provision of a sliding shield over the keyhole for the door lock. This will prevent the inside of the lock from becoming rusted, or frozen up in severe weather. The lights gave a good beam, ample to allow of one's driving at 60 m.p.h. or more, and when dipped cut off cleanly. The manner in which the optional fog lamp was fitted was an object lesson to many manufacturers and motorists; it was fitted for fog, and had not been tilted up to gain an extra yard of vision at the expense of other road users.

The brakes proved to be very efficient and—almost more important—worked very progressively, and for all normal braking required fairly light pressure. Not the least attractive feature of the Minx is that, in common with its sister cars the Humber and Sunbeam, it has a quiet and restrained appearance. Chromium has not been ladled on as mere ornament, as on certain other cars of similar price and capacity. Similarly the instruments and controls look exactly what they are: no attempt is made to turn them into ornaments. Through its various stages of development the previous Minx had been in production for many years, and made many friends. The improvements apparent in this latest model suggest that in as many years it will be successfully coping with its work.

THE HILLMAN MINX SALOON

Makers: Hillman Motor Car Co., Ryton-on-Dunsmore, Coventry.

SPECIFICATION

Price	£681 2s. 6d.	Brakes	Lockheed hydraulic
(including P.T.)	£201 2s. 6d.)	Suspension	Independent (front)
Cubic cap.	1390 c.c.	Wheelbase	7 ft. 9 ins.
Bore: Stroke	76.2:76.2 mm.	Track (front)	4 ft. 9½ in.
Cylinders	Four	Track (rear)	4 ft. 0½ in.
Valves	Overhead	Overall length	13 ft. 3½ ins.
B.H.P.	43 at 4400 r.p.m.	Overall width	5 ft. 3½ ins.
Carb.	Zenith	Overall height	5 ft. 1 in.
Ignition	Coil	Ground clearance	7 ins.
Oil-filter	Full-flow	Turning circle	33 ft.
1st gear	17.045 to 1	Weight	19½ cwt.
2nd gear	11.807 to 1	Fuel cap.	7½ gallons.
3rd gear	7.126 to 1	Oil cap.	8 pints.
4th gear	4.778 to 1	Water cap.	12½ pints.
Final drive	Spiral bevel	Tires	Dunlop 5.60 x 15

PERFORMANCE

Accelera-	Max. speed	73.8 m.p.h.
tion	Petrol consumption	31
secs.	m.p.g. at 45 m.p.h.	
20-40	Top 12	3rd 9.6
30-50	Top 14.8	—
0-60 (all gears)	30.2 secs.	(90 per cent. efficiency)

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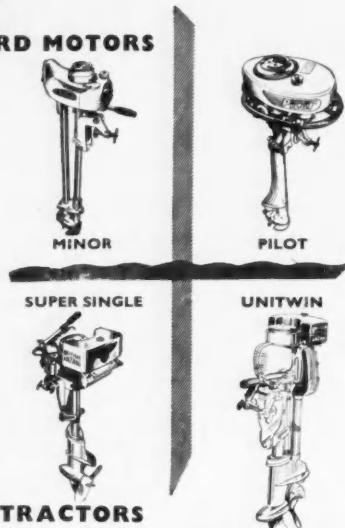
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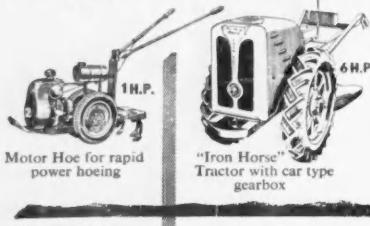
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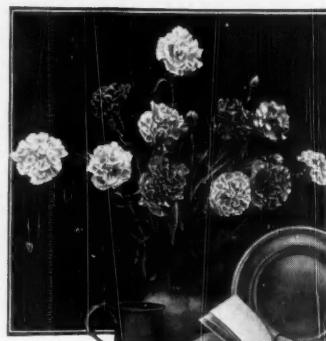
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A CAUSERIE ON BRIDGE

CLARENCE RIDES AGAIN

THE showman instinct of Ewart Kempson rebelled against the conspiracy of silence that marked the recent World Bidding Contest, introduced on this page last week. For reasons that I need not go into, England was officially represented by five pairs whose chances of winning were clearly nil, and whose aggregate score looked pretty appalling—but it proved good enough to beat all but two of the other twenty competing nations! So there is no cause to write off British bidding methods as hopeless, especially when our official team's score was beaten by five nondescript "Standard Bridge" pairs who bid alongside them at B.B.L. H.Q.

Having sponsored last year's inaugural contest, Kempson was not going to be left out in the cold, so he struck a counter-blow for our bidding prestige by matching his Waddington team against six lady champions nominated by the Australian Bridge Council. The Waddington ladies, it will be remembered, won all their matches two years ago in the European championships, and could lay claim to the world title after a successful trip to the U.S.A.

Kempson's pairs returned the following scores: Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Evans (Acol), 2,160; Lady Rhodes and Mrs. Markus (CAB), 1,310; Mrs. Gordon and Mrs. Fleming (CAB), 1,170—a total of 4,640, against the Australians' 4,220. Our leading pair's score was fantastically good, and is likely to stand as the highest in the whole world contest. Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Evans saved the ship, as they have done more than once in the European arena, but the Australian ladies are morally entitled to a draw. The two captains had agreed to bid the hands simultaneously, which meant that the Australian players had to enter the fray at the unusual hour of 5 a.m. local time.

In the return match next year, our ladies will take the early morning hour forced on one of the teams by the time difference between England and Australia, but the handicap could probably be surmounted by including another Acol pair, such as Mrs. McDonnell and Miss Coen, who played extremely well at Montreux and scored 1,670 in the bidding contest.

Two things are essential in a test of this nature. The first, obviously, is partnership experience; the second is a rational method of valuation and an intelligible language of bids. Awards are made on a double dummy basis, maximum marks (100) being given on each deal to the final contract which seems most likely to gain the highest plus score or, as the case might be, the lowest minus score; consolation marks may be awarded to reasonable alternative contracts. There is little hope for a pair whose system and lack of partnership technique is liable to produce something like the following:

West	East
♦ 3	♦ Q J 10 7
♥ A Q 10 6 4	♥ 8 3
♦ J 9	♦ K Q 10 8 2
♣ A K 10 9 6	♣ 8 2

Dealer, East. Both sides vulnerable.

In a European championship match, the sequence (West first) One Heart—One Spade—Two Clubs—Two No-Trumps—Three No-Trumps earned welcome points for Britain (East made ten tricks after South had elected to start off with the Ace of Diamonds!), but a resounding zero would be the obvious award in a bidding match.

I will not belabour the fact that the highest scores, in both official and subsidiary contests, were invariably returned by pairs using Acol (or Standard Bridge, as I prefer to call it); in no case did a pair using any other system return a score greater than 1,430 (Dodds and Pavlides) out of a possible 3,000. Among *hoi polloi* at the London Club was my versatile young protégé, Claude Rodrigue, fresh from his triumph in the Masters' Individual championship and partnered by Dr. Rockfelt, an excellent bidder. Rodrigue went right back on the Clarence Standard by choosing the Baron system for the occasion, with an abysmal score as the outcome. For example:

West	East
♦ A J 10	♦ 8 5 4 2
♥ A J 10	♥ K Q 7
♦ K J 4	♦ A Q
♣ A K Q 8	♣ J 10 5 3

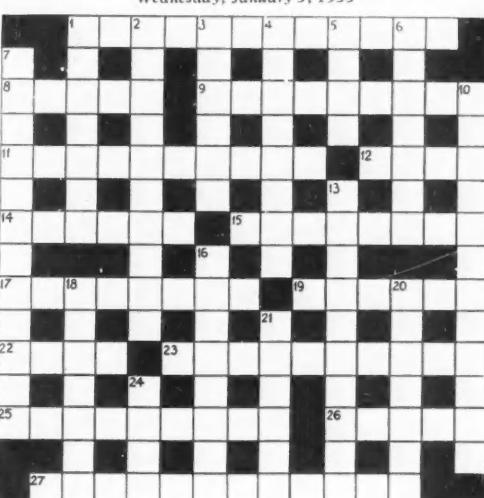
Dealer, West. Both sides vulnerable.

The list of awards on this deal started with Six Clubs (by West), 100; Six Clubs (by East) or Six No-Trumps, 80. After sitting, for my sins, on last year's adjudicating committee, I am loath to quibble over these markings; although the final contracts were said to be judged on the lines of a duplicate pairs contest, any contract other than Six No-Trumps on these cards is likely to earn a near-bottom. Odds of three-to-one on seem good enough for most of us (twelve tricks in No-Trumps are cold unless North holds both of the missing Spade honours), and few pairs would consider a lower-scoring slam call, even though Six Clubs played by West is fractionally safer. And would you dream of awarding 70 marks, as the Australian organising committee did, for a pusillanimous contract of Three No-Trumps?

The standard British sequence on this hand is a simple affair: West opens with Two Clubs, East bids Two No-Trumps to go on with, and West describes his values to a pip with a raise to Three No-Trumps; this conveys that he intended to rebid with a non-forcing Two No-Trumps (23-24 points) over a negative Two Diamonds response, so East can judge that the combined pointage is adequate for Six No-Trumps, no more, no less. Four out of our five pairs in the official team duly reached Six No-Trumps, but a Baron pair came to grief with Two Clubs—Three No-Trumps—Four No-Trumps—Five Diamonds—Six No-Trumps—Seven No-Trumps, a typical example of the difficulties created by an early meaningless call. The same result was achieved by Rodrigue and Rockfelt, the first-named (as East) having defied his long-suffering mentor by responding with Three No-Trumps to his partner's bid of Two Clubs.

CROSSWORD No. 1299

COUNTRY LIFE books to the value of 3 guineas will be awarded for the first correct solution opened. Solutions (in a closed envelope) must reach "Crossword No. 1299, COUNTRY LIFE, 2-10, Tavistock-street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2," not later than *the first post on the morning of Wednesday, January 5, 1955*.



Name..... (MR., MRS., ETC.)
Address.....

SOLUTION TO No. 1298. The winner of this Crossword, the clues of which appeared in the issue of December 23, will be announced next week.

ACROSS.—1, The Globe; 5, Sprain; 9, Recourse; 10, Arrear; 11, Director; 13, Calash; 14 and 16, Pot-boiler; 19, Cockles; 20, Ararat; 21 and 26, Ant-eaters; 27, Grandeur; 28, Tuscan; 29, Affronts; 30, Dinner; 31, Feast day. DOWN.—1, Tirade; 2, Encore; 3, Launch; 4, Bishop; 6, Pergamos; 7, Amenable; 8, Northern; 12, Rocking; 15 and 16, Hotbed; 17, Patented; 18, Partisan; 19, Carriage; 22, Trifle; 23, Snore; 24, Veined; 25, Crusty.

By M. HARRISON-GRAY

A hand that gave rise to still louder moans was the following:

West	East
♦ J 7 6 4 2	♦ A 8 5
♥ A J 5	♥ K Q 10
♦ A 10 7	♦ K Q J 4
♣ K 6	♣ A Q 10

Dealer, East. Neither side vulnerable.

Owing to duplication, eleven tricks are the limit, yet no pair worthy of the name can fail to reach Six No-Trumps, a contract that would be a lay-down if, for instance, East's black suit holdings were switched. Both Culbertson and Goren state that 33 points in two balanced hands will normally produce a small slam in No-Trumps, and here the partnership has 34, plus some extra values. To award 100 marks for stopping in Three No-Trumps comes perilously close to putting a premium on poor bidding. Rodrigue and partner lost little by reaching a fine contract of Seven Spades.

These are no more than minor grousing, for many of the selected hands were superb and their markings impeccable. Here is an innocuous-looking example:

West	East
♦ K 9 8 6	♦ A Q 10 4 3
♥ J 9 2	♥ K Q 3
♦ K 5 2	♦ Q 8
♣ 8 7 5	♣ A 3 2

Dealer, West. North-South vulnerable.

No one could quarrel with the terse award "Any part-score in Spades, 100; all other contracts, nil," but several eminent pairs walked into various traps, such as responding with One No-Trump on the ten-loser West hand to East's opening bid of One Spade. My partner and I kept out of trouble with the sequence One Spade—Two Spades—Three Clubs (trial bid)—Three Spades (sign-off)—pass, but final contracts of Four were the order of the day. Rodrigue, as West, played his part in a novel auction: One Spade—Two Spades—Two No-Trumps—Three No-Trumps. On this occasion his restraint kept the partnership out of a grand slam.

ACROSS

- To go through this would be a painful experience for most children (12)
- City that might be expected to produce goals (5)
- But more virulent insects were to be found in dug-outs (9)
- Comes from little birds by the sound of it (10)
- Even one can be a dance (4)
- A resource adopted by the traffic authorities (3, 3)
- Bacchic decoration (8)
- What the 23 master became later on? (8)
- This may mean arrest (6)
- An island having the Queen in part, at least (4)
- Advised to be this, the new master should not go into class backwards (5, 5)
- A pet to ten (anagr.) (9)
- The contents of the letter are silly (5)
- Uneasy for lying (7, 5)

DOWN

- Not the lumber route: ask a sailor (7)
- Braves once (anagr.) (10)
- Characteristically set up (2, 4)
- It may not be worth much, but it is fresh (5, 3)
- Promising accompaniment, perhaps (4)
- "These thoughts may — well, but not astound"
- They seem to want a leader (5, 2, 5)
- Reached by man, not the monkey, in the evolutionary ascent (3, 2, 3, 4)
- Where to find 8 across (4, 6)
- Part of Canterbury by the sea (8)
- There must have been a burial to make it possible to do this (7)
- "Glad life's —
"Of pain, darkness and cold" —Browning (7)
- Could the charge for it be a leg? (6)
- Not stale to Kitchener if he did (4)
- NOTE.—This Competition does not apply to the United States.

The winner of Crossword No. 1297 is

The Rev. T. H. Soulby,
Torcove,
Babbacombe Downs,
Torquay,
Devon.



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NEW BOOKS

SCOTTISH HOUSES AND GARDENS

OME of the foremost architects working in England in the 18th century were expatriate Scots—Gibbs, Campbell and the Brothers Adam, for example—and it is paradoxical that so comparatively little should be known of Scottish architecture of this period, or, indeed, of any other. Until the Restoration of Charles II, when William Bruce introduced English idioms north of the Border, Scottish architecture followed a path of its own in which the easily defensible peal tower was the dominant building form.

It was not until the 16th century that the Scottish lairds began to allow themselves a little more comfort and ornament, and then the inspiration came primarily from her old ally France rather than from her hereditary enemy England. Even so it was carried out in an unmistakably Scottish manner, combining dourness and romanticism. This "curious dichotomy," as John Fleming points out in *Scottish Country Houses and Gardens Open to the Public* (COUNTRY LIFE, 25s.), is responsible for much of the character of Scottish buildings, with the peal tower at one end of the scale and a Scottish Baronial country house like Sir Walter Scott's Abbotsford at the other. Furthermore, the two characteristics often occur in the self-same building: as in Crathes or Craigievar, where the dour peal tower bases have a purely romantic top-hamper of clustered chimneys, corbels, dormers and turrets; or at Blair, where a simple exterior conceals an exceptional Rococo dining-room and drawing-room.

The Statue of William Adam

Mr. Fleming's book, which describes and illustrates some twenty houses and a further eleven gardens which are regularly open to the public, will do much to illuminate the little-known merits of Scottish architecture. Two features which emerge most notably from his readable descriptions and the splendid photographs by which they are accompanied are the statue of William Adam, father of the more famous brothers, and the extraordinary luxuriance of some Scottish gardens owing to peculiarities of climate. William Adam, hitherto a neglected figure, emerges as a vigorous and eclectic designer whose wide and sometimes ill-digested learning produced buildings which are always interesting and sometimes, as in the east front of Hopetoun, magnificent. It is to be hoped that Mr. Fleming's book will bring Scottish architecture—especially of the 18th century—to a wider public, and inspire research in this comparatively unexplored region.

R. G. N.

ENGLISH MEDIÆVAL ARCHITECTS

TWENTY years ago it could still be stated in a standard work that English mediæval architecture, even if not solely the product of craftsmanship inspired by faith, as the 19th century believed, was "essentially anonymous." Yet proof to the contrary had long been plentiful abroad, and by 1925 W. R. Lethaby, following up such pioneers as Wyatt Papworth, St. John Hope and Willis and Clark, had made the master builders of Westminster recognisable figures. Then, in the '30s, largely owing to the researches of Messrs. David Knoop and G. P. Jones, groups of notable buildings and certain idiosyncrasies of style began to be associated with individual masters; and Yevele, Herland, Orchard and Wynford came to be recognised as more than names—as great architects in function if not in title.

Since then, Mr. John Harvey has taken a leading part in rehabilitating these and scores of other masters with the honour due but so long denied to them. And now, in *English Mediæval*

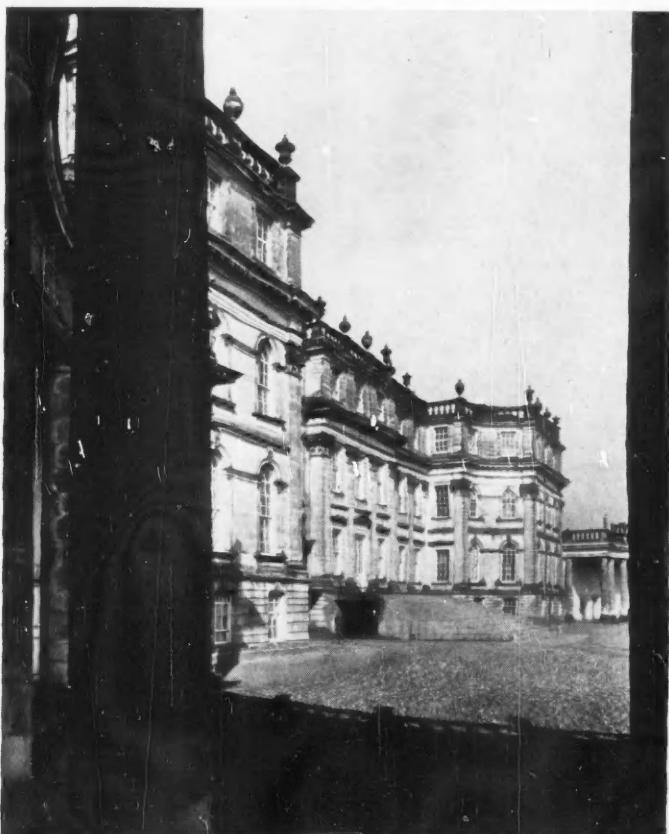
Architects, A Biographical Dictionary (Batsford, 75s.), he has for the first time brought together all that he and fellow workers have discovered about more than 1,300 individuals whom it is possible to regard as designers of buildings erected before 1550. Thus, in a year that has given us Mr. Colvin's and Mr. Summerson's exhaustive works on the men responsible for post-Renaissance architecture, Mr. Harvey's illuminates as never before those of the early centuries. Who, one wonders, will now bridge the treacherous gap, 1550-1650, that these enlightening angels disown?

The Master Mason

The architecture of the last hundred years of the Middle Ages up to its final flowering in Wolsey's brilliant group of architects can now

introduction the several "classes of evidence," factual and inferential, which can lead to the identification of an "architect" from among the innumerable names of inferior operatives preserved in records. The clue may be far from direct, though when Masters Hugh Herland, William Wynford and Henry Yevele are found in the bursar's accounts dining at high table at New College the inference must be clear enough. Or it is circumstantial, as in the attribution of the famous roof of Penshurst hall, built by Lord Mayor Sir John Pulteney about 1341, to William Hurley, master carpenter at the Guildhall and Tonbridge Castle, and William Ramsey III, the greatest architect of the time.

Ramsey, indeed, is rightly re-



HOPETOUN HOUSE: AN ILLUSTRATION FROM SCOTTISH COUNTRY HOUSES AND GARDENS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, REVIEWED ON THIS PAGE

be said to be as clearly outlined as the 18th century's. Before then a good deal more remains to be discovered, if, indeed, it can be. It was about 1250 that there began to appear "master masons with rod and gloves in their hands," censured in conservative quarters because they "labour not yet take higher pay." Previously there had been such *ingenitatores* as Ailnoth, Henry II's castle-builder, occupying a position comparable to surveyor general, or William of Sens at Canterbury—though he was also "a most cunning craftsman in wood and stone." But it is reasonably clear that the increasing complexity of architecture, as much as the King's personal enthusiasm, was responsible for Henry III in 1256 ordering John of Gloucester the mason and Alexander the carpenter to take over the direct control of his works. From that date onwards there is a definite succession of these King's Craftsmen in charge of royal works, with counterparts, less clearly recorded, for others.

Mr. Harvey sets out in his

garded by Mr. Harvey, from his work at St. Stephen's Chapel and St. Paul's, as "a master of supreme importance for his influence in the formation of the Perpendicular style." But the destruction of these crucial buildings still leaves unsolved the riddle of Perpendicular's earliest surviving appearance at Gloucester under John Sponlee.

The Dangers of Attribution

On the whole, Mr. Harvey is very cautious, more so than in his previous books, in attributions based on probabilities. How tempting and risky they can be is illustrated in the article on Henry Smyth (d. 1517), whom his will seemingly describes as master mason at the Savoy Hospital, whereas an erratum slip states that recently discovered accounts have revealed that he was in fact but leading settler. It is fair to say that the article in question is one of the hundred or so which Mr. Harvey tells us have been contributed by Mr. Arthur Oswald, chiefly on the Cambridge and East Anglian masters and

including the admirable one on the great John Wastell. It is, indeed, through such analogies, based on detached local studies, then applied widely over the whole field, that, despite occasional pitfalls such as this, the study and enjoyment of mediæval architecture is transformed for us by Mr. Harvey and his colleagues in this epoch-making book. Even close students of the subject will find much that was not already known about the outstanding masters, and more than half of the men noticed are stated to be completely new to architectural literature. And many of these, as yet obscure, may prove to be architects of the first order. There is, for example, James of St. George, the Savoyard engineer of Edward I's Welsh castles, recently brought to light by Mr. A. J. Taylor and now introduced to the general reader.

The Greatest English Architect?

It is through all these patient labours, conducted or thus made generally accessible by Mr. Harvey, that it will become possible to apply the standards of international art criticism to English Gothic architecture. This process, scarcely yet begun, is provided with a broad and solid foundation by this book, equipped as it is with five wonderful cross-referring indexes. As to the stature of the greater Gothic architects, especially those of the style's final and uniquely English phase, we may agree with him that "if Ramsey introduced the Perpendicular style, it was Yevele who perfected it." Yet shall we follow him in accepting Yevele as "the greatest English architect" and in claiming that "the alien style" of Wren "cannot be put on a level with" the nave of Canterbury—or King's College Chapel—"regarded as a work of religious architecture?" Many have said so, believing these the manifestations of a spirit; shall we deny it now that their controlling mind is proved mortal?

C. H.

THE CHATELAINE OF HAM HOUSE

SHE was just an ordinary little piglet, taken at random from dozens of others." Thus Beatrice Farley, the author of *Frances, and the Others*, introduces her heroine. In fact, Frances Bacon, to give her her full name, grew into a far from ordinary pig, a pig of character and intelligence above even the high average of her kind. Miss Farley, aided by drawings by M. Hodges and D. O'Neill and photographs by K. N. Penney, tells the story of Frances's upbringing among goats and dogs at her home in a Sussex village during the war with a happy sense of humour and a rare felicity of expression.

Frances, though she had her official residence, a sty aptly named Ham House, made herself free of the whole demesne, including her mistress's house, as often as she could. One sees her exploring the garden, picking buttercups and decorating her sty with them, wandering into the house in search of company and sending the dining-room table shooting across the room with a touch of her broad side, and so on. Her personality apart, she justified her existence by helping with such chores as the collection of logs for the fire and by bringing up, after a preliminary failure, numerous families of little pigs, one of whom, Selham by name, is depicted being trundled to the pig-lorry by his hind legs like a wheelbarrow. Frances's gift for making herself generally sociable and useful was due mainly to her capacity for imitation; her success as a mother, on the other hand, was in large measure attributable to her liking for stout.

In order that the achievements of this remarkable pig and her offspring should not be lost to posterity Miss Farley arranged to publish her story herself, and it is obtainable from Frances Publications, Levendale Singleton, Chichester, Sussex, for 7s. 6d.

J. K. A.

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A VITAL YEAR OF ADJUSTMENT

Each year, for upwards of 30 years, Mr. Norman J. Hodgkinson (Messrs. Bidwell and Sons) has made a summary of prevailing trends in the property market and circulated it among regular clients of his firm. In this year's review he describes 1954 as having been a year of adjustment, in which investors have found it more than usually important to take stock of their commitments as between real property and stocks and shares, and between different types of each.

"It has seldom, if ever, been truer," he writes, "that the term 'a good investment' may be very misleading, since what may be a good investment for one person or body may well not be an equally good investment—and may even be a bad investment—for another person or body, the difference being due to a great extent to the amount of tax that each is called upon to pay."

TWO CLASSES OF INVESTOR

Apart from "the tax angle," Mr. Hodgkinson suggests that investors are divided into main classes, one consisting of those who believe that we are living in a fool's paradise, with inflation just around the corner, and the other made up of those who are apparently convinced that the industrial boom is, if not in its infancy, at any rate a healthy youth. He himself is evidently by no means convinced that the financial state of the country is as rosy as some people think, for he expresses the view that those who have a substantial portion of their capital invested in real estate will come off best in the next four or five years, since "real property, and particularly land, is undoubtedly the safest commodity in which to invest during times of doubt and uncertainty."

TIME TO BUY FARM-LAND?

PERHAPS the investment most sought after by those seeking to transfer money from the Stock Exchange to real estate is farm-land, and Mr. Hodgkinson is of the opinion that spring of next year may well be an advantageous time to buy. His reasons for this belief are that the change-over to free markets in agriculture, though a sound move, will mean teething troubles in the industry, and that this probability, allied to the difficult conditions brought about by the exceptionally bad weather conditions of last summer and late autumn, may well bring about a temporary depression in the market.

IMPORTANCE OF EQUIPMENT

After stressing that money invested in farm-land is protected against any inflationary tendencies, Mr. Hodgkinson points out that such an investment is also capable of yielding a reasonable return, since, although there is no doubt that in the past rents of well-equipped farms have been low in comparison with less well-equipped holdings, this defect is in the process of being remedied, and to-day most tenants are willing to pay an increased rent commensurate with the improved equipment provided by the landlord. Indeed, he suggests that with a view to ensuring a reasonable income, and, in the long run, an increase of capital, an investor in agricultural land would be well advised to set aside a percentage of the total funds that he has available for investment for the purpose of providing equipment.

BUILDING LAND

TURNING from farm-land to other types of real estate, Mr. Hodgkinson said that the downward trend of prices for most houses had not been so pronounced as last year, and that this

was especially true of the market for better-class old houses which had benefited as a result of increased building costs. On the other hand, there were many people who were determined to have a new house, and their demands, coupled with the fact that building licences were no longer necessary, had meant a corresponding increase in the price of building land.

Shop properties, like farm-land, are a sound investment in Mr. Hodgkinson's view, and, as with farm-land, he emphasises that money spent on improvements is likely to prove profitable. But he adds that this type of property is in very short supply, especially when let on short leases.

£30,000 FOR HERTFORDSHIRE ESTATE

I WROTE last week that news of further sales before the end of the Christmas holiday was unlikely, but no sooner had I done so than a letter arrived from Messrs. Lofts and Warner telling of their successful auction of the Beaumont Manor estate, Hertfordshire. The property, which was offered on instructions from the executors of Major M. H. Grant, whose family had lived there for three generations, covers 310 acres, and, in addition to the manor house, includes a secondary residence, the White House, several cottages, a farm, accommodation land and woodlands, almost all with possession. The sale room was crowded, and there was brisk bidding for several of the lots, of which the manor farm, of 171 acres, fetched £8,800; a parcel of woodland of 81 acres having about 53,000 cu. ft. of oak realised £6,000; and the White House was knocked down for £4,500. The total realised at the auction was £25,810, but it is understood that, with lots sold privately, the total will reach nearly £30,000.

Another property that changed hands as a result of an auction held before Christmas was Cattistock House, near Dorchester, Dorset, an early 18th-century house which was offered with a cottage and riding school, both with possession, and a second, tenanted, cottage. Here, again, the sale evidently excited considerable interest, for Messrs. Henry Duke and Son, who offered the property on behalf of the executors of Major-General Frank W. Ramsay, report that the bidding began at £5,500 and that it was raised 37 times before the property was knocked down at £9,300.

LIKELY TO SELL WELL

A PROPERTY that judging by its description is likely to sell well is Cross Farm, Kidmore End, near Reading, Berkshire, which Messrs. John D. Wood and Co. and Messrs. Nicholas are offering on behalf of the Hon. Michael Berry. For one thing, it is situated in a popular district, within easy reach of London, and for another the prospect of obtaining a house, "probably of Tudor origin, with five principal bedrooms, four staff bedrooms, a nursery suite and seven bathrooms," two cottages and building for a small T.T. herd included in its 32 acres is calculated to attract a number of City businessmen who wish to indulge a taste for the country with a small, easily run farm.

A farm of similar size but very different character is Woodlands Manor, Mere, Wiltshire, which Messrs. John D. Wood and Co. are offering on the instructions of Mr. H. Leigh Holman. The house dates from medieval times and has a great hall with gallery and timber roof and some fine plasterwork.

PROCURATOR

FARMING NOTES

WATERLOGGED

FROM July onwards the weather has earned no good marks with farmers. Rain on and off all through the harvest period, rarely two consecutive dry days in October and November and then gales and floods in December. Work on the land is far behind the usual calendar. Most of the main-crop potatoes have been lifted, but there are fields so sodden that the tubers are embedded in a sea of mud. One or two hard frosts would put paid altogether to the remaining crops. The lifting of sugar-beet has been delayed and the sugar content of the roots is likely to be disappointing. Nor are we getting full value from the sugar-beet leaves and crowns, which in a normal time make excellent feed for dairy cows and other stock. This season the tops have quickly deteriorated. We have exceptionally heavy crops of kale, so the cows should not lack ample green food into the New Year. Then they will go on to silage, which should be of reasonably good quality. There is little decent hay about. The older ricks are being kept for the calves and young stock; the cows will have to rely almost entirely on silage. On some farms where the cows can usually be kept out of doors in the daytime until Christmas the pastures are so wet that, to save severe poaching that would ruin the sward for next year, the cows are already being kept indoors. This adds to the feeding problem. Except in the eastern counties the arable fields have never been dry enough to allow the usual proportion of autumn corn sowing and there will be a great rush of spring work. We must hope that February as well as March gives us a peck of dust. This wet time must have leached fertility from the top soil, and we should be rather more generous with fertiliser applications next spring, which will be another added expense. No wonder farmers are not in a happy frame of mind.

Yarded Cattle

FROM the Nottingham University Department of Agricultural Economics at Sutton Bonington, Loughborough, comes a survey (price 2s.) of the profitability of yard-fattened cattle, based on figures from 22 herds with 396 cattle altogether. They were all on Lincolnshire arable farms of over 300 acres with a big interest in cash crops. For the winter of 1953/54 the average result was a loss of £13 11s. 8d. a head on the cattle. They put on a live weight of 2½ cwt. from the beginning of December to the end of March. This heavy money loss needs some qualification. By calculating the feeding-stuffs used at the cost of production and including a credit for manure, the average loss can be reduced to £2 1s. 4d. a head and 11 of the 22 herds would show a profit instead of a loss. It is interesting to know that the average daily cost was 3s. 10d. a head, of which 3s. was for feeding-stuffs. Miss Prudence P. Richardson, commenting on these figures, suggests that many farmers could reduce the cost of fattening yard cattle, as they are feeding more starch and protein than the animals can convert efficiently. Few are feeding such cheap and valuable foods as silage and fodder beets. Miss Richardson also points out that the large animals which were necessary when only poor grade feeding-stuffs were available are still in great demand by feeders, when the aim should be to fatten cattle at a younger age and so reduce the total costs from rearing to sale. I doubt whether this is a sound conclusion for application to arable farms where there is a big quantity of roughage which can best be converted by large animals. Certainly there is no sense in wasting unduly generous quantities of concentrated feed on them. Miss Richardson thinks that these farmers are giving their cattle more feeding-stuffs than are necessary and when

they see her figures they may be able to make economics.

Mixing Rations

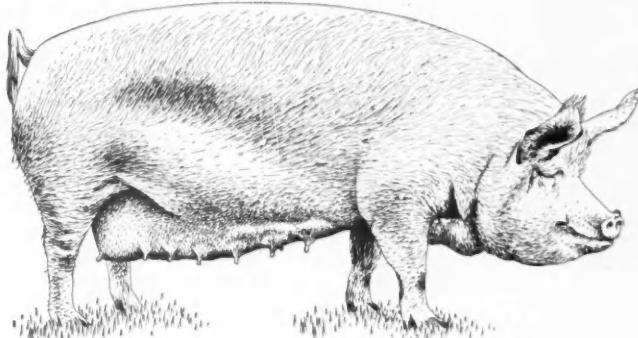
FOOD costs amount to about two-thirds of the total expenditure on producing a gallon of milk, and in the fattening of pigs they amount to four-fifths of total cost. By careful recording of his dairy herd and by controlled feeding of his pigs the farmer can reduce his costs. This we all know and try to carry out. There is a further interesting suggestion backed by figures in *Farm Management Notes*, published by the Nottingham University Department of Agricultural Economics, price 1s. 6d. To what extent can farmers reduce the cost of feeding-stuffs by mixing their own rations on the farm? Two home-made rations are quoted: one for weaners up to 100 lb. liveweight and the other to carry on the pigs to 220 lb. liveweight for bacon. The total amount of food required is about 7 cwt., made up of 2½ cwt. of the first ration and 4½ cwt. of the second. The first ration is composed of 11 cwt. of barley meal, 3 cwt. of fine wheat offals, 2 cwt. of oats, 2 cwt. of maize and 2 cwt. of white fish meal; the cost was £32 4s. a ton, including the cost of grinding and mixing at £2 a ton. The second ration for fattening consists of 13 cwt. of barley meal, 3 cwt. of maize, 3 cwt. of oats and 1 cwt. of decorticated ground-nut meal with the addition of 2 lb. per cwt. of minerals, and, allowing £2 a ton for grinding and mixing, the cost was £28 19s. a ton. When purchased compound meal cost £33 a ton, by using straight feeds mixed on the farm the unit costs of producing bacon pigs were lowered appreciably. With purchased compound meal the feed for 10 pigs cost £115 10s. and when purchased straight feeds were mixed on the farm the cost was £105 8s. So the Nottingham University Economists reckon that the profit a pig can be increased by £1. Mr. T. W. D. Theophilus, who writes this report, has given many of us something to think about. The convenience of having compound feeding-stuffs, nicely balanced and delivered in convenient form, can be costly.

Rodents

THE Scottish Flour Millers Association has been telling wheat growers in Scotland that they must make greater efforts to keep down rat and mice infestation in wheat ricks if they want to make a full price for their grain. Biscuits and other baked goods are exported to America, and this valuable trade can be held only if the miller can guarantee a delivery of clean flour. It is the rule in America that biscuits must contain not more than two rodent hairs and 20 insect fragments per half pound of finished product; otherwise they will be rejected by the American Customs Authority. At first sight this does not seem an unduly high standard of purity, but the average pellet of dry rodent faeces contains about 50 rodent hairs which have passed through the digestive system of the animal. The millers have screening equipment to clean wheat so that the excreta is removed, but they have not so far achieved complete success. Apart from the millers' problem, the farmer himself loses the grain eaten by rats and mice, which may amount to several hundredweight in one rick. The earlier the wheat is threshed after Christmas the less the loss from rodents. Poisons can be used to keep down rats and mice, but the most valuable expedient, the Scottish Millers consider, would be a return to the old Scottish method of building ricks on staddles. These are the pedestals fashioned of stone in the old days and more recently iron used to raise the rick bottom beyond the reach of rats and mice.

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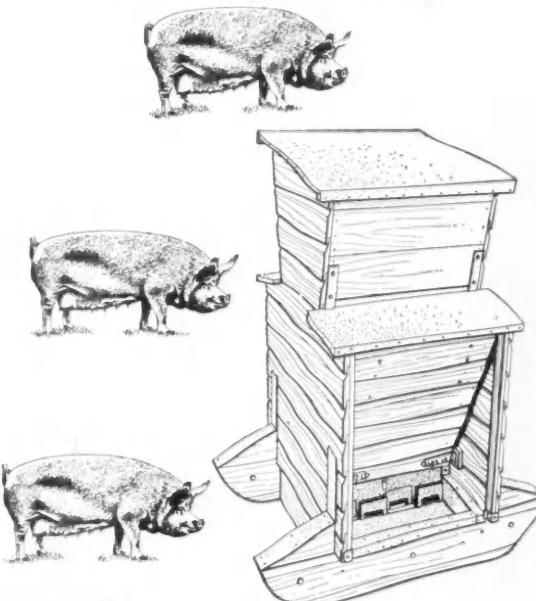


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NEW BOOKS

BARRIE'S IDLE YEARS

Reviews by HOWARD SPRING

IN 1918 Lady Cynthia Asquith became what Sir James Barrie used to call his "private private secretary." She remained with him till he died at the age of 76 in 1937. In her *Portrait of Barrie* (James Barrie, 15s.) she tells us about that time. It was not an abundantly creative time for Barrie. In those all but 20 years only two considerable works came from his pen: *Mary Rose* (which I think his finest play) at the beginning, and *The Boy David*, attended by such heavy disasters, at the end. These parentheses enclosed a long period of sterility. He talked, it is true. He became a figure as the main speaker

this time he took Stanway, the house that belonged to Lady Cynthia's father, and there assembled his friends about him. They played cricket and croquet and indoor games. He wrote plays for the children to act. They talked and talked. It is not surprising that Lady Cynthia looks back on those ten summers with painful joy. In those circumstances Barrie was at his best, but it would soon be over.

Of course, no man can live for ever with his ghosts. If only for moments, he must send them packing; and Barrie, of all men, was capable of bursts of wit and humour, of blue patches shining through the prevailing

PORTRAIT OF BARRIE. By Cynthia Asquith
(J. Barrie, 15s.)

THE POETS LAUREATE. By Kenneth Hopkins
(Bodley Head, 18s.)

THE VAN EYCK PROBLEM. By Maurice W. Brockwell
(Chatto and Windus, 10s. 6d.)

at important public dinners, and he discovered that he had a gift for that sort of thing. But, at heart, he didn't like doing it. "Sometimes his face, even while he was delivering his speech, wore a perceptible look of faint disgust, almost as though he felt himself to be performing a rather shabby trick . . . I'm sure he thought it the lowest of arts—little more than a mere knack—and considered its exercise rather a degradation."

HALT IN MID-CAREER

This sort of thing, then, did not engage his real powers, and for the greater part of 20 years those powers were, if not dead, profoundly dormant. For the later part of the period this would be more understandable, but for the beginning—for the writer in his fifties—it was unusual. All his contemporaries—Shaw, Wells, Bennett, Galsworthy, Conrad—were continuously "practising authors." Barrie alone presented this odd spectacle of a writer suddenly halted in mid-career.

This made life with him difficult, for he "came alive," Lady Cynthia says, only when he began to write. No writer can go through so long a time and do nothing. There were "occasional spurts of activity" and then he "would look kindled, brisk, alert; his very step became resolute—almost jaunty." But when the flicker died out, she became aware of the man in the room overlooking the Thames at Westminster—"that strange, shiplike room, and the stranger therein who walked, smoked, coughed . . . A poignant, haunting little figure. He obsessed me. An escapist? With a face like that—those harrowed, harrowing eyes! Whatever his intention may have been, he didn't look as if he'd succeeded in escaping."

Lady Cynthia came in daily, and so did all Barrie's servants. He liked to be alone at night. Occasionally, for some reason or another, the private private secretary would look in late, after a dinner or after a dance; and he would always be up, however late the hour. He found it difficult to sleep.

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by disappointment. He was a doomed man with serious organic trouble. The portrait drawn is sympathetic, indeed loving. Even those who find a good deal in Barrie's work and in Barrie's ways that they do not like will be compelled to ask: Who is there that one can like all through? And what right have we to ask that anyone should be likeable all through? To be as good a man as here appears would be a sufficient tax on the endeavour of most of us.

LAUREATES GOOD AND BAD

Mr. Kenneth Hopkins's book, *The Poets Laureate* (The Bodley Head, 18s.), is called "a study of the office and its holders and a collection of the official writings of the laureates." Mr. Hopkins admirably discharges the promise of these words. It is extraordinary how many bad or indifferent poets have held the office. Most people who are at all interested in the matter have heard of Henry James Pye, but ask anyone at a venture who was Laurence Eusden or William Whitehead and you will be lucky if one in a hundred can tell you that he was a poet, much less Poet Laureate.

Poets have by no means always scrambled for the office. Cowper did not want it, and Gray once wrote, "There are poets little enough to envy even a poet-laureat." Rogers turned it down when the Prince Consort wrote to tell him that the Queen offered him the job. This letter, says Mr. Hopkins, was "the clearest statement ever made by a Sovereign of what the office was taken to imply." Clarification was certainly needed. The office had been all sorts of things in its time, and it was, by some monarchs, so little esteemed that the poet had to write to point out that his pay was overdue. The Consort said in his letter: "Although the spirit of the times has put an end to the practice (at all times objectionable) of exacting laudatory odes from the holder of the office, the Queen attaches importance to its maintenance from its historical antiquity and the means it affords to the Sovereign of a more personal connection with the Poets of the country through one of their chiefs." There is no doubt that that is where it stands to-day.

Tennyson, Mr. Hopkins thinks, was "the ideal Laureate." His successor, Alfred Austin, lacked discretion as well as other qualifications. He celebrated the Jameson Raid, before asking himself whether "Dr. Jim" might not be an embarrassment rather than an asset, with some brisk lines beginning:

*Wrong! Is it wrong? Well, may be:
But I'm going, boys, all the same,
Do they think me a Burgher's baby
To be scared by a scolding name?*

The brief essays in which Mr. Hopkins examines the life and work of each of the laureates are admirable, and the book altogether fulfils its purpose.

WRANGLING AND RAUCOUS

Who painted the famous Ghent altar piece known as the Adoration of the Lamb? It was long maintained that it was by Hubert and Jan van Eyck, Hubert doing the greater part of the work and Jan finishing it off. As recently as 1913 a vast monument was unveiled in Ghent, showing the Brothers van Eyck receiving homage from a carved crowd. But who is this Hubert, the elder brother? Mr. Maurice W. Brockwell, in *The van Eyck Problem* (Chatto and Windus, 10s. 6d.), answers in the immortal words of Betsy Prig: "There ain't no sich

person." Someone must have invented him at some time, and through the centuries the invention has been thoughtlessly repeated by traveller after traveller, critic after critic. In fact, Jan alone painted this masterpiece.

In a deliciously irascible book Mr. Brockwell sets out to establish his case, and if you can put up with his jerky, irritable manner you will find it as fascinating as a detective tale. But, to me, even more fascinating than this was the story of the vicissitudes of those famous panels throughout the centuries. Bits of them have been stolen, wars have caused them to be scattered and re-assembled, time and neglect have faded them, and occasional restorations have perhaps not always improved them. There is at least the suspicion that here and there bits have been painted in by other hands than van Eyck's, and Mr. Brockwell asks: "Would Jan van Eyck recognise his own handiwork to-day?"

Even after all that Mr. Brockwell and others have done to destroy the identity of Hubert and hand the undivided palm to Jan, there are obstinate critics who still assert that Hubert lived and worked on this masterpiece. For me, a mere amused outsider, I find myself too near to Van Megeren and the forged Vermeers, so vehemently accepted by the greatest "experts" of Europe, to come to any opinion founded on theirs. I content myself with the fun of reading this wrangling raucous book.

WHY DO BOWER-BIRDS BUILD BOWERS?

THE bowers built, and painted or decorated with flowers or fruit, by the bower-birds of Australia, New Guinea and the adjacent islands have long excited wonder and curiosity. They are constructed by the males alone, and have nothing to do with the nests, which are usually far from the ground, in the tops of tall trees, and built by the females. Their purpose, however, is a matter of dispute. Some have contended that they are playgrounds and that in constructing them the birds are satisfying an aesthetic urge. In *Bower-birds: their Displays and Breeding Cycles* (Oxford University Press, 30s.), Dr. A. J. Marshall, who has studied the habits of bower-birds on and off for nearly 20 years, puts forward a different theory. He argues that the bowers are display-grounds, and that their purpose is sexual: that is, they help the males and the females to synchronise their reproductive processes. And though he stresses that the book, which summarises the available knowledge about its subject, is merely a preliminary statement, his conclusions do seem to fit the facts.

Stages, Avenues and Maypoles

The chapters in which Dr. Marshall considers the interaction of external and internal factors in the breeding cycle of birds and discusses the evolution of bower-building, which he thinks may have originated as a displacement activity fundamentally allied to nest building, are for the serious student of bird behaviour. No one, however, who has even a mild interest in birds can fail to be fascinated by his accounts of the dozen or more species of birds that build bowers and of the bowers themselves. These vary from the stage strewn with fresh leaves made by the tooth-billed cat-bird or stage-maker to the avenue of twigs constructed by several species, including the satin bowerbird, and the bower like a covered maypole erected by four species of gardener. The book is illustrated by numerous photographs and drawings of bower-birds and bowers and has a comprehensive bibliography.

J. K. A.

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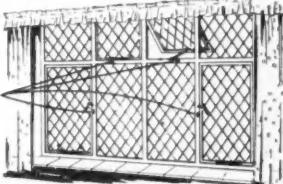
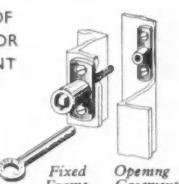
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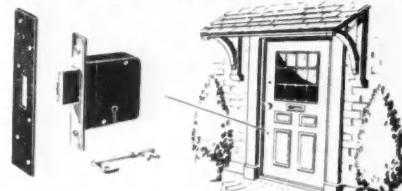
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A chignon of real flowers worn with an elfin cut for evening (Raymond)

(Right) White paper-weight satin with a vast pleated skirt. The flat fichu, framing the shoulders and continuing to a point below the waistline, is lightly embroidered with rhinestones (Debenham and Freebody)

THE long and the short evening dress seem to have settled down side by side each with its own devotees, and the occasions on which each is worn are roughly decided, though there is no absolute line of demarcation. The dress with a short skirt belongs to the more cosmopolitan background of restaurant and night club or small intimate dinner party in town and the smart resorts, the long evening dress to diplomatic parties, hunt balls and formal civic functions. Débutantes also prefer the long skirt, though the fluffy skirts that just about reach the ankles have their adherents and certainly are a very pretty style for a young girl.

The long evening dresses have acquired more glamour than ever before, perhaps on account of the opposition from the short. The wide skirt vies with the tightly draped sheath. The former billows out at the back over stiffened bustle shapes and petticoats; the latter is perhaps at its most elegant when it is spirally draped with projecting loops at the sides. Bodices supply innumerable variations of the fichu and the one covered, one bare shoulder theme. Strapless bodices have reappeared after a temporary eclipse; shoulder straps are kept as far apart as possible and often take the form of double straps, each as narrow as a bootlace or single straps are wide and folded.

Dior's flatter bustline is featured in his own wholesale collection over here and has been reflected in several of the other wholesale collections as well, not to anything like the same extent as the basque he has also launched into which the fullness of the skirt is pleated or gathered. The long fichu that extends to a point just below the waistline, as inaugurated by Givenchy, also appears on many of the gala occasion dresses and is very becoming. There is a boned strapless bodice beneath.

White evening dresses predominate among the stiffer kinds of silks—the slipper satins, ottoman, failles, and all the brocaded silks. Perhaps the prettiest of all are the satins and ottomans that have a design of white velvet leaves or flowers. These fabrics are very much of this winter, and so are the gold and white ones that are treated in the same way with part of the design gilded. The laces are charming when by the mixture of different kinds of rayon yarn or rayon with nylon a design is created that is partly matt and partly shining, or has a portion raised. Birkin use acetate for the flowers on a silk ground with a viscose outliner, and this process also lends itself to a subtle form of cross dyeing that is charming. These "brode" laces laid on satin create a fabric with a bloom on the surface that is greatly admired.

Of the fragile fabrics, the nylon marquises that do not crease and can be permanently pleated and compressed into a wide skirt are very



popular. This same material is gay when it is woven in several colours in a bold plaid pattern with a narrow glinting stripe of washable gold thread at intervals. The white organdies shown by Horrockses with an embossed pattern in white composed of garlands of flowers are fresh and young. Elegant patterns taken from Adams mouldings and carried out in narrow braid on pure linen are being shown by Moyashel for next summer. These linens have been shown in the model wholesale collections for evening and afternoon dresses, and they have a texture that can be made up successfully for either a narrow skirt or a circular.

Molten metal lamés, taffetas or satins that are as light in texture as tissue paper are chosen for the draped slender dresses. Colours are muted and subtle—ash blonde, a greeny gold and orchid tones of pink and mauve as well as the white shot with gold that is so fashionable through fabrics of all kinds. This moulded silhouette appeared in several of the mid-season collections of the London couturiers. The silks were draped across or back with a spiralling movement and looped at the sides or just towards the back so that a winged look was created. Short-skirted



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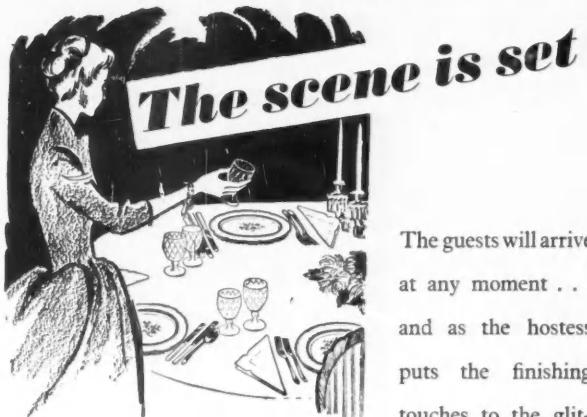
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exceedingly sophisticated evening dresses feature this same line. Décolletages are low and strapless for a long skirt, and low and cut out to either a square or a V-shape for a short.

The gala dress sparkles with embroidery, lightly applied. The favourite way of this winter is for this to be concentrated on one portion of the dress, either on the bodice or the bolero or as a panel down the front. Some of the satin dresses with billowing backs have sprays of feathers or fern fronds in rhinestones embroidered occasionally on the bustle, and when they are strapless their broad diaphanous tulle stoles will have more sprays on each edge. The fitted beltless dress will often have the embroidery placed above and below the waistline to emphasise the sweater line of the top. The wide skirt is then pleated in to the basque and left unadorned.

WHITE and silver and white and gold are the favourite mixtures with some brilliant geranium and flamingo pinks as well. Ronald Paterson designed a dress for the collection shown to Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and embroidered a bolero all over with tiny brilliant multi-coloured beads and chose parchment-coloured satin for the dress, which was devoid of decoration. Incidentally, it is these cream, parchment and all the off-whites that are being chosen and ordered in all the collections for next season, whether for evening or for daytime wear, for satin or for tweeds.

The daintiest accessories have been designed for the gala dresses. Sandals in one of the sparkling plastic materials tend to have narrow straps set diagonally or very broad ones, and not more than two, placed like a mule, over the foot. The medium heel is as smart as the high for dance slippers: a peg heel on a satin pump looks especially new and balances the line of the pointed toe. For young girls, Harrods have satin pumps with a medium peg heel, and this shoe can be dyed to any colour to match a frock. The sheerest of American ten-dernier nylons have just arrived in some of the stores.

Earrings become larger and larger. The rhinestone ones that look like fountains of brilliants worked in a most delicate setting are so large that they almost cover the ears. Chandelier earrings are equally elaborate in shape: over three or four strands of brilliants will be suspended from a pyramid. Necklaces vie with them in magnificence. A pyramid shape



Parchment slipper satin with a wide skirt gathered in at two levels and a bolero embroidered with iridescent bugle beads (Ronald Paterson)

(Left) Evening dress with a skirt that billows out at the back and a strapless bodice. A folded bolero, so brief that it is called a shrug, covers the top of the arms. The material is a nylon crépe screen-printed with ferns in cornflower blue and black on a pale blue ground (John Cavanagh)

Photographs by COUNTRY LIFE Studio

dangling in front is very popular; so are the necklaces where round flower clusters of brilliants are set on to a single strand that circles the base of the throat. Pearls are worn as many as ten and twelve rows at a time with the top three or four making a small dog collar and the rest falling into a curve. Pearl necklaces composed of four or five strands are often set into an antique jewelled clasp which is worn in front.

A new cut by Raymond leaves the hair longer and smoother than usual at the back with the sides cut in two or three layers getting shorter towards the crown. Each layer is curled forward, and the ends can be tipped with one of the gold or silver highlights that are painted on and can be brushed out afterwards. For more exotic occasions the ends are bleached and then tinted a pastel colour. The front is cut into a soft half-curled fringe continuing the line, and this is a cut that can be adapted to suit any face. For parties he fixes a chignon of real miniature flowers delicately wired and attached to combs to the back hair.

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